

Hafa Adai!

NMC students inducted to Sigma Beta Delta honor society. **PAGE 2**

Senate president's daughter pleads not guilty. **PAGE 3**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 85

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

## CHCC offer to pay CUC \$225K/month rejected

» Muña says CUC is bullying, using scare tactics; if disconnected Thursday, CHCC to buy 2nd generator

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors has rejected the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s proposal to pay \$225,000 monthly

for utility services, saying the plan is not sustainable.

CUC board chair Janice A. Tenorio informed CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña in a letter Thursday that they both know that the offer is quite short of the average monthly billing for CHCC's

See CHCC on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Sen. Dennis James C. Mendiola (R-Rota), left, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors chair Janice A. Tenorio, center, listen to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña during a break in the meeting between the Senate Health, Education, and Welfare Committee and Senate Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, Friday afternoon.

## FAC remains the same in May

The Fuel Adjustment Charge remains the same at \$0.25671 per kilowatt-hour for the month of May, according to a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. news release last Friday.

Although there has been a slight decrease in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing, the decrease did not equal or exceed a 4.5% differential of the average per

gallon cost of fuel.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate,

See FAC on Page 4

### EDA FOLLOW-UP

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang met with representatives from the Economic Development Administration—EDA regional administrator Sheba Person-Whitley and EDA Pacific representative Keoki Noji—last Friday to discuss updates on the EDA-funded projects in the CNMI, which include facilities to address disaster recovery, workforce development, and economic diversification. They were joined at the meeting by Pacific Basin Development Council executive director Esther Kia'aina, and PBDC program director Jay Rojas.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**

Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

**152**

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Roderick Zandueta and Eugene Mendez get top honors at Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc.

PAGE 11



### ASIA

A Chinese coast guard ship blocked a Philippine patrol vessel steaming into a disputed shoal.

PAGE 13



### LIFE & STYLE

Jerry Springer, whose namesake TV show featured dysfunctional guests, died Thursday at 79.

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



**GOT A NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



## Local

## NMC students inducted to Sigma Beta Delta honor society

Twenty-two Northern Marianas College School of Business students were recently inducted to the Sigma Beta Delta international honor society in an installation ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

"Being inducted into the Sigma Beta Delta international honor society is a remarkable achievement, and I am thrilled to see our business students being recognized for their hard work and dedication," said Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., president of Northern Marianas College. "Their success brings great pride to our campus community and showcases the exceptional academic talent within the Proa tribe."

The Sigma Beta Delta honor society was established as an international organization in 1994 to provide an opportunity for faculty at institutions with regional accreditation to confer on their business, management, and administration students' international recognition for their outstanding academic achievements.

Sigma Beta Delta honor society also encourages and promotes aspirations toward



The newly-inducted members of the Sigma Beta Delta honor society at Northern Marianas College.

personal and professional improvement and a life distinguished by honorable service. Through June 30, 2017, Sigma Beta Delta had installed over 450 chapters in 48 states and internationally while inducting 100,000 members worldwide to honor

their high academic achievement in business, management and administration.

Student business majors who rank in the Top 20% of the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral classes at schools with chapters of Sigma Beta Delta are eligible for invitation

to membership in the Society.

The students who were inducted into the NMC chapter of Sigma Beta Delta include Nadyne Dabu Achas, Junelyn Caabay Carnaje, Xu Lucy Chen, Jessy Kaley Borja Dela Cruz, Maritoni Delos Reyes Duarte, Yuri Fukushi, Kyle

Merrill Garcia, Dimitri James Kaipat, Jim Marco Lacsina, Duncan Aaron Laxa, Junnan Li, Nemerlyn Marie Magat, Lauren Gomez Montilla, Jenine Stephanie Perena, Tins Meirull Relevante, Arni Legaspi Salinas, Beah Sarena Sebio, Joseph Viesca Sion,

Patcha Meekham Trakulchang, Vincent Kazuo Tude-la, Jr., Julia Oksana Yasuda and Jing Zhao.

For more information about the Sigma Beta Delta honor society, contact Geri Hofschneider at (670) 237-6715 or visit marianas.edu. (NMC)

# May is National Bicycle Safety Month



- ✓ Never ride or drive distracted.
- ✓ Always expect the unexpected.
- ✓ Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- ✓ Know the Rules of the Road - A bicyclist is considered a vehicle on the road with all the rights and responsibilities of motorized traffic.
- ✓ Share the Road - Both motorist and bicyclist should look out for each other and show mutual respect.



For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety  
SAIPAN 664-9125/9084/85 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9350  
www.dps.gov.mp



## Senate president's daughter pleads not guilty

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The daughter of Senate president Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and former Department of Public Safety commissioner Ray Mafnas has pleaded not guilty the as-

sault charge filed against her in the Superior Court.

Nanami DLG Mafnas pleaded not guilty last Monday before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja to charges of assaulting another woman who happens to be a local lawyer.

Naraja accepted Mafnas'

plea and scheduled a status conference for June 14, 2023, at 1:30pm and ordered Mafnas to have no direct or indirect contact with the victim.

During her arraignment, Mafnas was represented by assistant public defender Travis Scott while assistant attorney

general Steve Kessel appeared for the government.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, the alleged victim filed last week multiple charges Mafnas, 26, at the Superior Court, including assault and battery and disturbing the peace. The information filed stated that Mafnas faces a maximum imprisonment sentence of one

year, a \$1,000 fine, or both for the assault charge.

According to the information filed in court, Mafnas grabbed the victim by her braided hair, pulled her out of the vehicle, and hit her face and body on or about March 18, 2023, on Saipan.

The charge of disturbing the peace arose from the same in-

cident. The court information states that Mafnas physically assaulted the victim, causing her to feel scared to leave home.

Mafnas faces a maximum imprisonment sentence of six months and a \$500 fine if found guilty.

The Superior Court issued an arrest warrant for Mafnas last April 6. Mafnas posted bail last April 7. She remains out of Department of Corrections custody pending further court proceeding.

## UOG students to host Taiwan forum on conflict, potential Guam impacts

A University of Guam Master of Public Administration class will host the forum "Understanding the Taiwan Crisis: Its Impact on Guam and the Region."

The event will be held from

10am to noon on Saturday, May 6, 2023, in Room 131, the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration building. The forum will also be broadcast via Zoom. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/taiwancrisisforum>

tinyurl.com/taiwancrisisforum

The forum will feature the following panel members:

- Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio;
- Capt. Michael A. Smith, chief of staff of the U.S. military's Joint Region Marianas;
- Clarence V. Lagutang, Capital Improvement Projects manager of the Port Authority of Guam;

- Leland Bettis, board director for Pacific Center for Island Security;
- Dr. Ronald L. McNinch-Su, associate professor, University of Guam.

The PA540 Administrative Law Graduate Class is presenting the forum to foster discussions about the possibility of the Taiwan conflict escalating

into war. In addition, students in the class hope the forum will result in a better understanding of the government's plans to address the safety and welfare of Guam residents.

For more information about the forum, contact Nicole Perez, MPA graduate student at [pereza14668@go-tritons.uog.edu](mailto:pereza14668@go-tritons.uog.edu) (**UOG**)

## ATTENTION Government Employees & Retirees!

**SAVE MONEY with the Island Smiles Discount Dental Plan. ENROLL TODAY!**

- **Cheapest Price:** \$5.00 (Individual Plan), \$6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or \$7.00 (Family Plan) per bi-weekly allotment. Cheapest dental plan in the CNMI.
- Members receive at LEAST **20%-50% discounts** on all dental procedures. Enrollment Packet & Video explanation of the Plan @ [www.paradisedentalspa.com](http://www.paradisedentalspa.com)
- **Plan Provider:** Paradise Dental Spa. State-of-the-art, full service General and Cosmetic dental clinic. Most experienced dentists in the CNMI. Really nice people and the coffee pot is always on! Great aircon and free WiFi.

Award-Winning Dentists  
kind and gentle

**DR. NELSON KRUM**  
**DR. SHELLY TRAN**



Paradise Dental



Hawaii Dental Service, Take Care, Calvo's, Cigna, Staywell, and LHI Insurances also accepted. Medicaid patients welcome! Best Aircon on the island, and the coffee pot is always on!

**Call 234-4040**

Middle Road, Gualo Rai, across from Chong's Refrigeration

Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to [paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com](mailto:paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com)

[www.paradisedentalspa.com](http://www.paradisedentalspa.com) [instagram.com/paradisedentalspa](https://www.instagram.com/paradisedentalspa) [facebook.com/paradisedentalspa](https://www.facebook.com/paradisedentalspa)

## ARTMAN CORPORATION

### SERVICES will be:

- Sewer Pumping
- Snake Wiring
- Portable Toilet Rental
- Portable Hand Wash Station
- Handling Recyclable Wastes



PMB 122 Box 10000  
MP 96950, Lower Base  
[artmancorporation@gmail.com](mailto:artmancorporation@gmail.com)  
Please Call: 234-8079 | 287-8079

# FILL UP ON SAVINGS

**BRING YOUR PHONE**

Starting at  
**\$30/MO**  
when you bundle  
with Home Internet

**DEVICE PAYMENT PLAN**

Starting at  
**\$50/MO**  
when you bundle  
with Home Internet

**EARN UP TO**

# \$200

**IN FREE FUEL**

Rota and Tinian subscribers can receive up to \$200 in vouchers to Ace Hardware.

[ite.net](http://ite.net) [itecnmi](https://www.instagram.com/itecnmi) [itecnmi](https://www.facebook.com/itecnmi)

Terms and conditions apply. Available while supplies last. 24-month or 30-month term required for maximum voucher amount. Subject to credit check. Visit [ite.net](http://ite.net) or stores for details.



## PSS is getting \$499,999 to support 60 AmeriCorps members

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) disclosed over the weekend that the Public School System is receiving \$499,999 to support 60 AmeriCorps members this year.

Sablan said in his *e-kilili* newsletter that the AmeriCorps announced Tuesday that after completing their service with AmeriCorps, these members are expected to earn \$157,576 in

Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to help pay off their student loans and other educational expenses.

As a result of the fiscal year 2023 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition, the CNMI will receive a total of \$499,000 in funding from AmeriCorps, the federal agency that administers AmeriCorps and other national service programs.

According to the AmeriCorps, through this competition, one successful grantee operating in the CNMI will

receive \$499,999 in competitive funding from AmeriCorps to support approximately 60 AmeriCorps members.

Since 2006, over 500 AmeriCorps volunteers in high school have served over 18,000 of their fellow students with tutoring or by assisting teachers with educational projects.

The PSS AmeriCorps Program will support 60 AmeriCorps members who will provide cross age peer-to-peer tutoring services in reading to at-risk public school students per-

## Kilili assures he is working on CNMI eligibility for EAS

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

In a letter to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to support its efforts to obtain supplemental funding, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) assured he is working on putting the CNMI on the list of territories and small communities that are eligible for the U.S Department of Transportation's Essential Air Service program.

In a letter to CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio, Sablan stated that he fully supports CPA's recent request to DOT for \$30 million in supplemental funding to keep the CNMI's airports in operation until fiscal year 2026.

"I write to extend my full support of your efforts to seek federal assistance to help the [CPA] maintain airport operations, reduce airport costs, and attract new air carriers to the Marianas. I recognize that recent super typhoons that devastated the Marianas, shortly followed by a global pandemic, have gutted revenues across all Marianas ports. These

same compounding disasters have likewise crippled tourism, our sole economic industry, making a speedy recovery even more unlikely," he said. "Marianas airports have clearly been harmed by the severe downturn in air service resulting in a precipitous decline in revenues. Thus I support CPA's efforts to seek the necessary financial assistance to maintain operations and keep our airports functioning optimally for the traveling public."

To show his support for CPA, Sablan said he is currently working on putting the CNMI on the list of small communities eligible for the DOT's EAS program.

"To also help ensure that lasting reliable and affordable commercial air service, particularly for Rota and Tinian, is always available to residents and visitors of the Marianas, I am seeking to have the Marianas regain eligibility in the Department of Transportation's Essential Air Service program," he said.

The CNMI was once eligible for the program, but reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration

program back in 2012 resulted in the CNMI losing its eligibility.

"Marianas communities were originally eligible for EAS but were not using the EAS subsidies when programs of the [FAA] were reauthorized in 2012, and therefore lost eligibility, along with over 600 other locations across the country," he said.

However, Sablan assured CPA that he is working with his colleagues in the U.S Congress to amend the he EAS program to include the CNMI.

"As Congress develops an FAA reauthorization bill for 2024, I am working to amend the EAS program to make the Marianas eligible once again so that our communities will always have at least a minimal level of scheduled air service. If successful, this change will not automatically take place, but it will ensure that EAS assistance is available if ever needed," he said.

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang shared his support for Sablan's endeavors.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## CHCC

From Page 1

utility consumption.

Including CHCC's \$200,000 monthly average electricity billing, CHCC's total monthly average billings for all services is \$500,000. According to CUC, CHCC's unpaid arrears for power, water, and wastewater services have now reached \$53.6 million as of March 31, 2023.

Tenorio told Muña that, while Muña shares the challenges and problems with the CHCC's cash flow collections and the timing of federal reimbursements with CUC's board at their meeting that day, the outstanding arrears remains CHCC's obligation.

At the Senate joint meeting Friday between the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee, and Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee, Muña disclosed that, after their meeting with CUC on Thursday, CUC will still press ahead with disconnecting the hospital by May 4, 2023.

Muña said that CUC is asking for a monthly payment of \$500,000 plus \$225,000—for a total of \$725,000 each month.

She said they did offer CUC that if the \$225,000 is low, at the end of the year, they will look at basically what they are settling with Medicaid and

make the adjustment and pay the difference, based on their usage versus what they're paying.

Right now, CHCC has a backup generator as a power source, Muña said, and if CUC disconnects them, they will need to get a second backup generator. She said that would mean that they won't be able to pay CUC the \$225,000 monthly because they will be using that money for fuel.

"What happens to the community then? It's because it will go back to the community. Then all of us will be paying for that loss of revenue from CHCC. We are a big customer," Muña said.

She disclosed that they are actually in the process of purchasing a second backup generator. "If they are disconnecting us, our goal is to get off the grid," Muña said.

Perlita Santos, who is CHCC's chief financial officer, said they are proposing a monthly payment of \$225,000 so to avoid disconnection. That amount only covers the current electricity billings and not their arrears, she said.

Santos said they have yet come up with any proposal as to how they will address the arrears pending any action by the Legislature.

Santos said at this moment they are trying to do rate adjustment to Medicaid to recover the cost of their vendors.

"We choose to buy at the phar-

maceuticals, which cost us about \$360,000 weekly to be able to keep our patients getting treatment and the medication they need," Santos said.

Santos said that CHCC is being billed right now at a commercial rate—which is more expensive—instead of government rate, and they are pleading to be billed at the government rate.

Kaitlyn Neises-Mocanu, who is chief strategy officer at CHCC, said their arrears is \$54 million. Minus penalties, it's just \$32 million in principal.

In her letter to Muña, Tenorio said only CHCC can determine what is absolutely doable to resolve the arrears and its billings going forward.

CUC, on the other hand, Tenorio said, can no longer continue to service CHCC without full payment for services already rendered in good faith.

Thus, she said, to prevent interruption of utility services, CUC requires CHCC to pay its entire monthly bill in full each month beginning with the March 2023 billings, plus pay an additional \$225,000 a month to retire its outstanding arrears. CHCC did remit \$219,000 to CUC last April 19, Tenorio said, and the amount was applied against a portion of CHCC's March 2023 bill.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

forming at the bottom quadrant in grades K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade at nine elementary and seven middle school sites across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

## Bill that re-appropriates \$62,515 for Tinian is vetoed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Citing insufficient funds, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has vetoed a House of Representatives local bill that would re-appropriate a combined \$62,518 for Tinian.

Palacios informed Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) that the Department of Finance informed him that insufficient funds exist to cover the appropriation in House Local Bill 23-06, D1, as of April 10, 2023.

The bill was passed by the Tinian

AmeriCorps members will be responsible for increasing the reading level and academic achievement of 450 students.

and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation to re-appropriate what appears to be fund balances from various projects/funding items appropriated by earlier local laws for expenditures: \$40,000 to the mayor for personnel and operations costs, \$20,018 to the mayor's discretionary fund, and \$2,500 to the Tinian Athletic Sports Association.

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) introduced the bill last March 9. The delegation passed it on first and final reading last March 20.

Last January, Palacios vetoed House Local Bill 22-44, D1, citing insufficient funds. The bill sought to appropriate to Tinian \$344,000 from revenues collected from poker fees on the island.

## IPI

From Page 1

include all IPI assets other than real property is necessary in order to cover and pay for all of the money that IPI owes.

Clear Management is proposing that the court issue an order stating that, "[b]ased upon information provided by the receiver after inquiry, it is clear to the court that the funds received and to be received from the sale of IPI's gaming equipment will be insufficient to pay IPI's creditors in full."

In addition, the order stated that IPI's non-gaming assets have and will likely to continue to deteriorate, and that the court should order the expansion of the receivership to authorize the receiver to sell all of IPI's personal property.

However, according to IPI in its opposition, the receiver has not demonstrated that the judgments against IPI exceed the amounts likely to be raised through the sale of gaming equipment that is already subject to the receivership.

"Accordingly, the court should refrain from expanding the scope of the receivership at this time," said IPI.

IPI argued that to date, four auctions of IPI gaming equipment have taken place and the receiver has made or proposes to make sales totaling \$989,554. In addition, the receiver has made sales totaling \$302,107.20 to Angel Playing Cards resulting in total sales of \$1,291,661.20.

"The 10% commission due to the receiver on these sales totals \$129,166.12. In addition, the court

has approved the disbursement of \$88,225.71 in expenses and additional disbursements to the receiver. A motion for disbursement of a further \$11,554.26 in expenses (reflecting the receiver's expenses for March 1 to 31) is currently pending," said IPI.

Assuming all pending sales and disbursements are granted by the court, IPI claims the total amount of commissions and disbursements to the receiver will be \$228,946.09, leaving a total of \$1,062,715.11 available for payment to IPI's judgment creditors.

According to court documents, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona raised last April 6 the issue of whether the scope of the receivership should be expanded to include additional IPI assets.

The court ordered the parties to meet and confer and submit a proposed order regarding the conditions of the receivership by April 21.

If no agreement is reached between the parties, the court indicated it would issue a briefing schedule by April 28.

The court also ordered the receiver to file an updated list of judgment creditors from both the U.S. District Court and CNMI Superior Court.

IPI claims that to the extent any meet and confer took place, IPI was not informed or included. IPI also claims that it received no indication of the receiver's position on the question of whether and how the receivership should be expanded until after business hours on April 21, when the receiver filed a report of limited receiver, which also included a proposal to expand the scope of the receivership.

## FAC

From Page 1

which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the

MOPS monthly pricing provided by Mobil equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. (PR)



# ‘Drone technology a potential game changer for the CNMI’

Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Education, along with Diego M. Sablan, special assistant for the Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation, toured the Bella Wings Aviation Lab in Tamuning, Guam, last March 24, 2023.

BWA is an unmanned aerial vehicle company focused on providing virtual inspection in construction engineering, package delivery, light show, video production, search and rescue, manufacturing and training. BWA has taken an educational perspective to introduce and train new Part 107 pilots. The Part 107 license is a certification issued by the Federal Aviation Administration that allows drone pilots to operate a broad spectrum of aerial missions in commercial and government applications.

“According to Diego M. Sablan, many people in recovery may have lost a job due to their addiction. Often, this can make it difficult to get back into the workforce. Job training helps people in recovery learn how to manage their time,” said Castro in a news release last Friday. He said the routine created

## AMP looking to hire 2 YCC interns

American Memorial Park is hiring two Youth Conservation Corps interns to help care for the park’s natural resources and historic structures. The program offers an opportunity for youth 15-18 years of age to experience out-of-doors work projects and learning opportunities.

The YCC program will run from June 2023 to August 2023. Participants will work 40 hours per week, Monday through Friday and receive the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. This opportunity is open to citizens of the United States, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. Applicants must be at least 15 years of age by June 11, 2023, and no older than 18 years of age on Aug. 13, 2023. Interested youth should complete the application and if not 18 years of age, include a parent or guardian’s signature.

Applications can be downloaded from NPS Form 10-29, or a copy can be picked up from 9am to 4pm Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. Completed applications are due by May 8, 2023 and may be emailed to [brooke\\_nevitt@nps.gov](mailto:brooke_nevitt@nps.gov) or dropped off at the Visitor Center in Garapan. (NPS)



Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) and Diego M. Sablan pose with Bella Wings Aviation Lab president Charlie Hermosa after a tour of the BWA in Tamuning, Guam, last March 24, 2023.

by a regular work schedule term recovery.  
can help provide the struc- “Should BWA expand its-  
ture that is crucial to long- drone technology develop-



Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) talks with Bella Wings Aviation Lab president Charlie Hermosa during a tour of the BWA in Tamuning, Guam, last March 24, 2023.

ment and manufacturing to the CNMI, we look forward to the establishment of an education, outreach, and training center at the HOPE recovery center as well as at-risk areas within the CNMI,” Castro added.

BWA president Charlie Hermosa himself visited the CNMI last April 13, 2023, at Castro’s request and made a presentation to members of the Legislature.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said that, while some may be skeptical of drones, the advantages of their use are too hard to ignore. “Unlike our mainland counterparts who have access to home mail delivery services, residents of the CNMI are inconvenienced by having to pick up their mail at the post office. Whether it be for the transport of prescription medication or blood samples between islands, drone delivery provides a faster way for people to get what they need, when they need it,” he said.

Castro said it is time to diversify the CNMI economy “and we will never go wrong when we invest in human capital development, technology, manufacturing, and logistics. We thank Mr. Hermosa for all the work he has done in the region and look forward to the implementation phase of the project.”

View the BWA presentation on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/live/CDQ6y73F4WQ?feature=share> (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP23-CHCC/CAS-012**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 5TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)  
**“PROCUREMENT OF CT SCAN”**  
(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training and Commissioning)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514  
Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp) • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

04/17/2023  
**Notice for Public Comment**  
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming:	Proposed Revised Project:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
DIS# 733	CDBG	Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment For DFEMS	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services	\$644,160.80	(\$9,316.80)	0	\$644,160.80
2016	CDBG	PY2016 Unobligated Funds Available to commit			(\$13,216.45)		
2018	CDBG	PY 2018 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$14,972.43)		
2019	CDBG	PY2019 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$24,914.28)		
2020	CDBG	PY2020 Unobligated Funds Available to Commit			(\$15,157.50)		
IDIS#715	CDBG	Kagman Community Park, Phase 2 Project		\$245,000.00	(\$49,223.20)	(\$195,776.80)	\$245,000.00
IDIS#763	CDBG	Renovation of Tinian Little League Baseball Field		\$330,000.00	(\$57,533.20)	(\$272,466.80)	\$330,000.00
IDIS#757	CDBG	Outdoor Fitness Court Facility (Rota)		\$115,166.40	(\$115,166.40)	0	\$115,166.40
		<b>Total Reprogrammed from Activities:</b>			<b>(299,500.26)</b>		
IDIS# 756	CDBG	Municipal of Tinian and Aguigan Multi-Purpose Facility	Municipality of Tinian and Aguigan	\$195,000.00	\$45,520.00	\$240,520.00	\$195,000.00
764	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Youth Center	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services	\$123,100.00	\$36,900.00	\$160,000.00	\$123,100.00
765	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Basketball Court	Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00
732	CDBG	Purchase of Two Wildland Trucks for the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	\$280,000.00	\$59,900.00	\$339,900.00	\$280,000.00
NEW	CDBG	Demolition of Perilous Structures (Rota)	Municipality of Rota		\$137,180.P26		
		<b>Total Reprogrammed to Activities</b>			<b>\$299,500.26</b>		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) publishes a “Public Notice” on reprogramming funds over \$100,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central Office located in Garapan, Saipan, and in Rota and Tinian Field Offices, on or before May 19, 2023 no later than 4:30 P.M. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner @ (670)234-6866/9447

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055-SAIPAN-MP-96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PERFORM A DESK AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**  
**PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-23**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public Corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby requests proposals from qualified and experienced firm(s) to provide professional services to perform a desk audit and performance review of the CPA executive staff and board of the directors. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluated by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. All applicants shall pay the reasonable administrative fee of \$50.00 to receive a copy of the proposal.

CPA will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023, to explain CPA's RFP objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held in the CPA Meeting Room located on the 1st Floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (next to the Bank of Guam ATM machine). Attendance by potential applicants is encouraged but not mandated.

Questions and/or clarification regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to Ms. Lorna Robert via email at [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com), hand delivery, U.S. postal service mail or facsimile transmission to 670-234-5962 on or before April 28, 2023.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as "RFP for professional services to perform a desk audit and performance review of the CPA Executive Staff and CPA Board of Directors, Project No. CPA-RFP-009-23". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. CHST, May 11, 2023, to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY  

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date



# Iran seizes Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in Oman

By JON GAMBRELL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran’s navy seized a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday heading to the U.S. amid wider tensions over Tehran’s nuclear program, the latest-such capture in a waterway crucial for global energy supplies.

The U.S. Navy’s Mideast-based 5th Fleet identified the vessel as the Advantage Sweet. Satellite tracking data for the vessel from Marine-Traffic.com showed it in the Gulf of Oman, just north of Oman’s capital, Muscat, on Thursday afternoon. It had just come from Kuwait and listed its destination as Houston.

The Advantage Sweet issued a distress call at 1:15 p.m. while in international waters as Iran seized the vessel, the Navy said.

“Iran’s actions are contrary to international law and disruptive to regional security and stability,” the 5th Fleet said in a statement. “Iran should immediately release the oil tanker.”

The Navy initially said Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard seized the vessel, but an American naval aircraft later confirmed that



In this photo provided by Cavit Ege Tulca, the oil tanker Advantage Sweet passes through the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul, Turkey, Dec. 23, 2022.

Iran’s navy captured the ship, 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Timothy Hawkins told The Associated Press.

Iran’s state-run IRNA news agency said the seizure came after an “unknown ship collided with an Iranian vessel last night in the Persian Gulf, causing several Iranian crew members to go missing and get injured.” It did not identify the other ship involved in the alleged collision.

The Advantage Sweet had been in the Persian Gulf on Wednesday, but its track showed no unusual behavior as it transited through the Strait

of Hormuz, where a fifth of all traded oil passes. Iran has made allegations in other seizures that later fell apart as it became clear Tehran was trying to leverage the capture as a chip to negotiate with foreign nations.

Iran’s “harassing activity within the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman is commensurate with an established pattern of behavior that has seen Iran target vessels as a result of ongoing disputes,” maritime security firm Dryad Global said.

The 5th Fleet said the Iranian seizure was at least the fifth commercial vessel taken by Tehran in the last two years.

“Iran’s continued harassment of vessels and interference with navigational rights in regional waters are a threat to maritime security and the global economy,” it added.

U.S. Army Gen. Erik Kurilla, the top U.S. commander for the Middle East, said in a statement that the “illegal seizure” of the tanker was “another in a continuing series of violations by Iran of the international rules-based order.”

The vessel’s manager, a Turkish firm called Advantage Tankers, issued a statement acknowledging the Advantage Sweet was “being escorted by

the Iranian navy to a port on the basis of an international dispute.” All the ship’s 24 crew members are Indian.

“The safety and welfare of our valued crew members is our No. 1 priority,” the firm said. “Similar experiences show that crew members of vessels taken under such circumstances are in no danger.”

The ship’s listed owner appeared to be a Chinese company.

Manifest information from data firm Refinitiv showed the Advantage Sweet carried Kuwaiti crude oil for American energy firm Chevron Corp. of San Ramon, California. Chevron said it was “aware of the situation.”

“We are in contact with the vessel operator with the hope of resolving this situation as soon as possible,” Chevron spokesperson Christine Dobbyn said in a statement.

Thursday’s seizure by Iran was the latest in a string of ship seizures and explosions to roil the region.


The incidents began after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from Iran’s nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran drastically limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Also, the U.S. Navy has blamed Iran for a series of limpet mine attacks on vessels that damaged tankers in 2019, as well as for a fatal drone attack on an Israeli-linked oil tanker that killed two European crew members in 2021.

Tehran denies carrying out the attacks, but a wider shadow war between Iran and the West has played out in the region’s volatile waters. Iranian tanker seizures have been a part of it since 2019. The last major seizure came when Iran took two Greek tankers in May and held them until November.

In the wider Mideast, Iranian-backed militias in Syria have carried out attacks on U.S. forces, including one that killed a contractor in March. The U.S. responded with airstrikes.

Meanwhile, talks over Iran’s tattered nuclear deal have been stalled for a year. Since the deal’s collapse, Iran runs advanced centrifuges and has a rapidly growing stockpile of enriched uranium. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has warned Iran has enriched enough up to 60% purity—a short technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%. That would be sufficient for Iran to make several nuclear weapons if it chooses to do so.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-013

RELOCATION OF EXISTING 0.065 MG MODULAR TANK IN KAGMAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Relocation of Existing 0.065 MG Modular Tank in Kagman, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment and materials for the relocation of an existing water tank within San Vicente Water tank site to the existing Kagman booster pump station site. Work includes, but is not limited to disassembly and relocation of an existing 65,000-gallon modular fiberglass potable water tank; demolition and disposal of existing temporary tank plinth at San Vicente Tank site; construction of tank foundation; installation of relocated tank, piping and appurtenances; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

*This project is funded by a grant from the us Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).*

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-23-013, Relocation of the Existing 0.065 MG Modular Water Tank in Kagman**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 19, 2023** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at [alley.reyes@cucgov.org](mailto:alley.reyes@cucgov.org) and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org)

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY, JR.  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth  
Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-018

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA’s ADMINISTRATIVE  
FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC’s Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-23-018, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota’s Administrative Functions and Operations**.” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 23, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address [alvin.king@cucgov.org](mailto:alvin.king@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY JR.  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



# Labor Employment provides latest job trends and data

The CNMI Department of Labor's Division of Employment Services is providing updates regarding job vacancy announcement data trends. The division plans to issue ensuing reports on a quarterly and annual basis.

For the first quarter of 2023 (Jan. 1 to March 31), a total of 435 job vacancy announcements were posted on the department's website. Of those

announcements, a grand total of 4,096 job openings were advertised. A monthly breakdown of the data illustrates that the month of January had the highest number of openings at 1,943, followed by February at 1,560, then March at 593.

The first quarter of 2023 had a 20% increase in job openings when compared to the previous quarter (fourth

quarter 2022), but also shows an 18% decrease when compared to the first quarter of 2022. Data shows that while there is a gradual increase in the number of job openings available on the department's website as COVID-19 restrictions wane, the increase is only nominal and pales in comparison to pre-pandemic levels. Historically, the first and second quarters of each

year yield the highest amount of job openings.

For the first quarter of 2023, the top 10 occupational groups most sought after by employers were as follows:

1. Construction and Extraction – 2,543 job openings
2. Installation, Maintenance, and Repair – 457 job openings
3. Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance –

251 job openings

4. Production – 203 job openings

5. Food Preparation and Serving Related – 175 job openings

6. Personal Care and Service – 117 job openings

7. Healthcare Practitioners and Technical – 108 job openings

8. Transportation and Material Moving – 41 job openings
9. Office and Administra-

tive Support – 40 job openings

10. Business and Financial Operations – 36 job openings

For further information regarding JVA data, visit [www.marianaslabor.net](http://www.marianaslabor.net). Hover over the "Divisions" dropdown selection menu and click on "Employment Services Division," then scroll down to the "Resources" section where you will find the decennial 10-year report, annual reports, and the latest quarterly reports. **(PR)**

## Certiport partners with the CNMI's Island Training Solutions

**SALT LAKE CITY**—Certiport, a Pearson VUE business, and the leading provider of performance-based IT certification exams that accelerate academic and career opportunities for learners, announced Friday a new partnership with Island Training Solutions in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Through its customized approach to design and implementation, Island Training Solutions has become a leading learning resource throughout the CNMI, offering training and certifications to a variety of clients ranging from large corporations and government agencies to small non-profit organizations. Island Training Solutions will now partner with Certiport to provide industry-recognized certifications to learners in the CNMI.

"We are delighted about our new partnership with Island Training Solutions," said Craig Bushman, general manager of Certiport. "Industry-recognized certifications can have a significant impact on a student's career prospects in [the CNMI] by demonstrating industry-relevant skills, increasing job opportunities, improving earning potential, enhancing professional credibility, and advancing career progression."

"Globally, employers continue to report a shortage of qualified workers, and although employers have many job openings, they struggle to find skilled, qualified applicants to fill those positions. Certification helps close the gap, benefiting not only individual learners, but also our country and its economy," said Jim Arenovski, owner of Island Training Solutions. "Certiport is the sole provider of some of the world's biggest academic certification programs, and we are excited to be able to offer their full portfolio of certifications to the people of Micronesia."

These certifications, plus additional curriculum and learning materials, are now available to Island Training Solutions' learners. To learn



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jim Arenovski, left, owner of Island Training Solutions, shakes hands with Craig Bushman, general manager of Certiport.

more about Island Training Solutions visit <http://www.islandtrainingcnmi.com>.

Certiport is the leading provider of certification exam development, delivery, and program management services delivered through an expansive network of over 15,000 Certiport Authorized Testing Centers worldwide. Certiport manages a sophisticated portfolio

of leading certification programs including: the official Microsoft Office Specialist certification program, the Microsoft Certified Fundamentals certification program, the Microsoft Certified Educator program, the Adobe® Certified Professional certification program, the Autodesk Certified User certification program, the Intuit certification program,

the App Development with Swift certification program, the Unity Certified User certification program, the Communication Skills for Business certification program, the IC3 Digital Literacy certification, the Entrepreneurship and Small Business certification program, and the Cisco Certified Support Technician certification.

Certiport reliably delivers over three million tests each year throughout the secondary, postsecondary, workforce, and corporate technology markets in 148 countries and 26 languages worldwide. For more information, <http://www.certiport.com> or follow Certiport on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/certiport>. **(PR)**

## SCC general membership meeting on Wed.

The monthly general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will take place this Wednesday, May 3, 2023, from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom.

The Chamber leadership will furnish its members with up-to-date and crucial details regarding the pressing concerns in the business community of the Commonwealth. Members, as well as future-members, are encouraged to participate in this significant discussion.

Also, the Chamber, in collaboration with the CNMI Public School System, will share information about the upcoming Career Exploration Summer Internship pro-

gram that aims to place high school students in internships with Chamber member establishments to provide career exploration opportunities for the youth. Chamber members are encouraged to take advantage and be a part of the movement to build local workforce capacity one student at a time.

Lunch will be served at 11:30am and the meeting will begin promptly at noon. The luncheon fee is \$25/ Chamber member and \$35/ non-member. The SCC is accepting reservations, to reserve or for more information, contact the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email [contactus@saipan-chamber.org](mailto:contactus@saipan-chamber.org). **(SCC)**

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • WEBSITE: <https://www.cnmiports.com>

---

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**  
**"Retail Concession"**  
**CPA-RFP-005-23**  
for:  
**CPA Concession No. RCA-2022-01**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide retail services to the traveling public at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Retail Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide retail services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of Three (3) years upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-23 is **April 20, 2023**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport or at the administration office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Retail Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on May 23, 2023**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

/s/  
**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: <https://cnmiports.com>

---

**NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC AUCTIONS -  
SURPLUS EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting all individuals, firms, and recycling centers to open public auctions of CPA's surplus equipment and materials. The list of surplus equipment and materials is available beginning April 14, 2023, for pick-up at the CPA Office of the Executive Director, which is located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Building, 2nd floor, or via email upon request.

**Item Inspection:** All items will be available for inspection beginning April 17, 2023, to May 12, 2023, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, business days only. Items located on Saipan may be inspected by contacting Mr. Santiago Camacho at the telephone number (670) 237-6500 Ext. 127.

**Auction Locations, Dates, and Times:** The auctions will take place at the following locations, dates, and times:  
Saipan: CPA Hazmat Bunker, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on May 17, 2023, beginning at 10:00 AM.

**Terms and Conditions:** All bidders submitting the highest itemized bid are required to pay a 20% down payment on acceptance of a bid. The balance shall be payable at CPA's Accounting Office located on the 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, within five (5) business days from the date of the Public Auction. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment must be made in cash, cashier's check, credit card, or money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All items are sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" and without warranty, guarantee, or representation of any kind, expressed or implied, as to the merchantability or fitness for any purpose of the property offered for sale. Items offered for sale are used and may contain defects not immediately detectable.

All sold properties must be removed from CPA property within five (5) calendar days from the date of payment, at the owner's expense. CPA will not be responsible for the said property after said specified time. The Buyer will make all arrangements and perform all work necessary, including packing, loading, and transportation of the property. No assistance will be provided. Upon removal of the property, all sales are final.

Any claim for a misdescription of the purchased item must be made prior to the removal of the property. If CPA confirms that the property does not conform to the description, CPA will keep the property and refund any money paid. The liability of the CPA shall not exceed the actual purchase price of the property.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted for any reason set forth in this Public Auction Notice or as set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, including bid rejection or cancellation prior to and at the Public Auction.

CPA assumes no liability for any costs incurred by bidders in their preparation of the bids. Inquiries may be directed to the CPA Procurement Officer, Alex Tudela, via email at [atudela@cnmiports.com](mailto:atudela@cnmiports.com).

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

---

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 85Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Another Republican legislature expels a Democrat, citing 'decorum.' That's rich

For the second time in less than a month, a Republican-controlled state legislature has blocked a Democratic lawmaker from its chamber, misapplying decorum rules as punishment for policy differences. The Montana House's floor ban of a transgender legislator who gave an impassioned speech against a transgender medical ban—like the recent expulsions of two Tennessee House members for protesting gun policies—appear to be the next trend from a political party that has all but declared that it's done with democracy.

In some ways, the ban from the legislative floor of Democratic Montana Rep. Zooey Zephyr, who is transgender, is even less defensible than the earlier expulsion of the two Tennessee lawmakers for participating in a demonstration with gun violence protesters on the House floor. Zephyr, in contrast, is being punished for speaking.

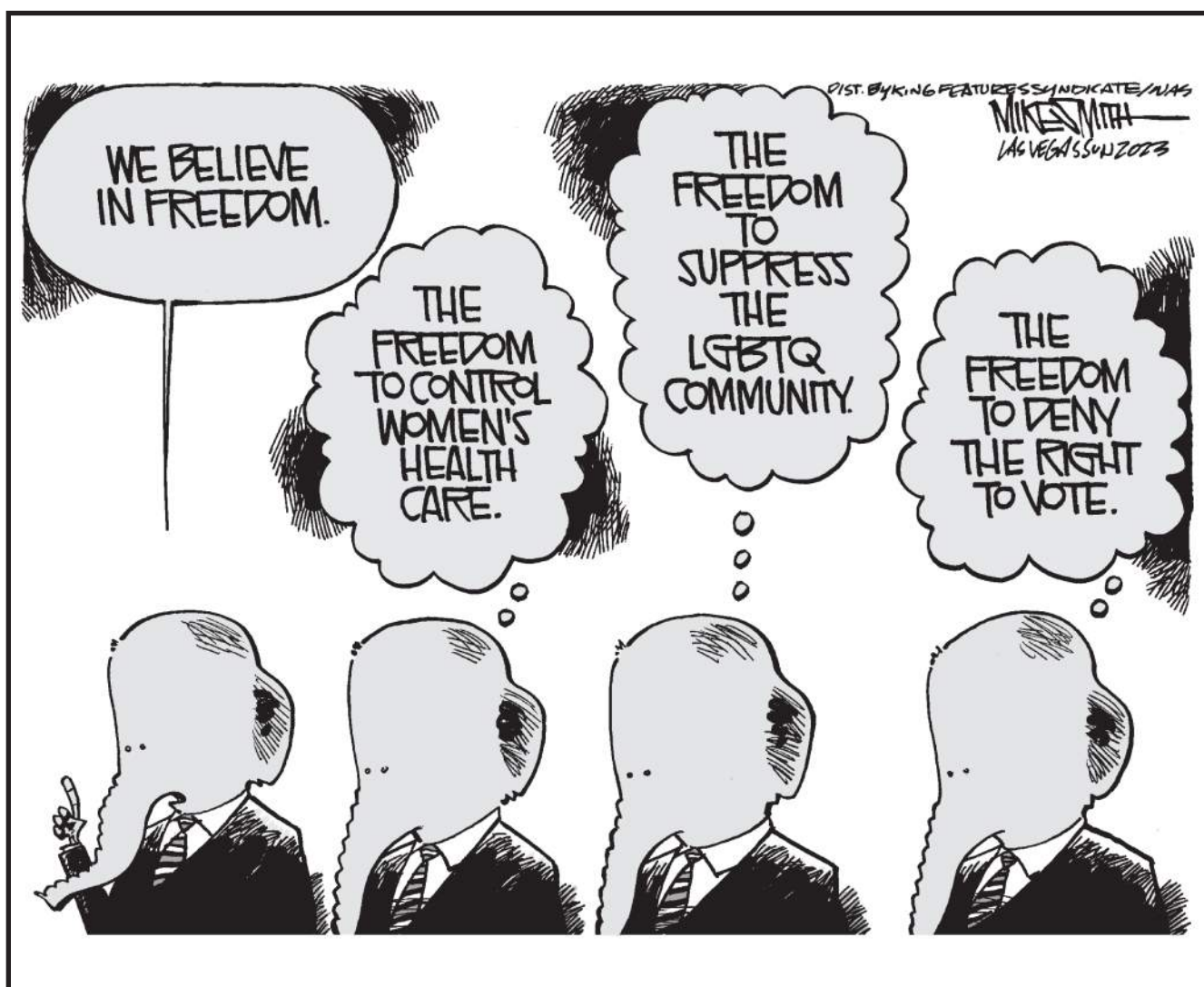
After a speech last week in which Zephyr accused the ruling Republicans of having "blood on your hands" for banning gender-affirming care for minors, House leaders responded by cutting off her microphone and refusing to let her speak on any issue. A protest by her supporters resulted in seven arrests, but Zephyr's own infraction was verbal. When House leadership this week finally gave her permission to address the issue, and she doubled down on her criticism of them, they responded by banishing her from the House floor for the remainder of the current session, citing decorum rules. Zephyr will be allowed to vote remotely on bills, but the Republicans' goal—to silence a voice of dissent during legislative debate—has been achieved.

The episode sends a chilling message about the GOP's growing contempt for the norms of democracy. Republican supermajority legislatures have decided they can violate those norms with impunity, whether to avoid blame for mass shootings spurred by the GOP's bullheaded refusal to consider even the mildest gun safety legislation, or to ensure that their politically driven persecution of transgender medical care isn't called out as the cynical and dangerous demagoguery that it is.

This strain of anti-democracy is spreading through statehouses in other ways as well. In Missouri, ruling Republicans have flouted the will of the voters repeatedly on issues like Medicaid expansion and political reform. And they are currently attempting to make the voters' will more difficult to express through ballot referendums—because they know most Missourians disagree with their draconian new abortion ban and would vote it down if given the chance.

The Montana episode also drives home just how situational this sudden GOP obsession with "decorum" is. This is the party, after all, that was just fine with Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Lauren Boebert heckling a president throughout a State the Union speech, and which continues to downplay the seriousness of the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection. The party of Donald Trump is no position to lecture anyone about decorum.

©2023 St. Louis Post-Dispatch



## Supreme Court ethics gap—a quick fix

You don't have to be a conservative Republican to recognize that there was, at the very least, an appearance of potential impropriety two presidents ago.

Those Ukraine natural gas company execs eagerly paid Hunter Biden a million or so dollars just to sit on their board—and be his dad's son. Dad, after all, was America's vice president—and, mainly, chief coordinator for Ukraine. So Biden, concerned about his troubled son, let his son take the job but kept telling us he never talked Ukraine business with Hunter.

So Ukraine's Burisma Holdings got the only thing it was paying for: the appearance of a Biden power-connection.

Today, it remains to be seen whether conservative Republicans will apply their well-honed sense of ethical outrage to more recent revelations about appearances of impropriety. And today we won't be talking about examples from executive or legislative branches, but a rare series of investigative reports in which movers, shakers and shapers appear to be courting power on, of all things, our most powerful court.

We are looking at the Supreme Court's ethics gap. We are starting with articles about separate incidents involving two members of the Supreme Court. The most egregious examples involve Justice Clarence Thomas. A far less serious incident, disclosed this past week, involves Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Finally, we'll get to the urgent need to fix a most shocking Supreme Court ethics gap that has been allowed to exist all these decades and centuries.

In recent months, ProPublica, the investigative news organization, has disclosed real estate transactions, lucrative gifts and vacations that Thomas got from billionaire Republican megadonor Harlan Crow, who became a friend long after Thomas was a justice. Crow bought three Georgia properties from Thomas, including the home the justice's mother still lives in. Crow treated Thomas and his wife, Ginny, a conservative political activist, to lavish vacations on his private jet and superyacht. Thomas didn't report the home sales on his disclosure forms, and didn't disclose his vacations.

And most recently, Politico's superb Supreme Court chronicler, Heidi Przybyla, broke the story that, just nine days before being confirmed to the Supreme Court in 2017, Gorsuch was part of a group that sold land and a home on the Colorado River it had been trying to sell for two years. The buyer was a huge law firm, Greenberg Traurig, that is often before the Supreme Court. Gorsuch's 20% share of the partnership reportedly netted him between \$250,000 and \$500,000. On the federal disclosure form, Gorsuch reportedly left the box for the buyer's name blank. The Greenberg Traurig firm has had 22 cases presented to the court since then. Of the 12 with re-

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



corded decisions, Gorsuch sided with the Greenberg Traurig clients eight times and with the other side four times.

Both Thomas and Gorsuch are, of course, court conservatives. But, given the genuine outrage conservatives expressed about Hunter Biden, we of course expect that patriotic concerns will lead to bipartisan ethical expressions of outrage that will transcend sandbox politics.

The greatest outrage of all, however, is the fact that the Thomas and Gorsuch problems we just cited are not considered ethics problems by the Supreme Court. That's because, shockingly, the Supreme Court is the only federal court that has no codified Code of Ethics.

Several senators have begun working on passing a law that will require the court to adopt a code of ethics. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. turned down a request from Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., to testify about this gap. He didn't seem to think a formal code is needed. Roberts just sent a statement signed by all nine justices. It said that in 1991 the Supreme Court had adopted "a resolution to follow the substance" of the ethics code rules that apply to all the other federal judges.

On MSNBC's "Morning Joe," Thursday, Maine's Sen. Angus King, a registered independent, was having none of that imprecision. Follow the substance of the rules? "No! It should be: 'We'll follow the rules.'"

King, who is working on a bill with Alaska Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, said that the code should just take the justices a weekend to write.

"Here's the key phrase," King said. "Justices should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety. ... They rest upon the moral authority by the trust the people put in them as an institution. And that's what is declining."

"I can't imagine that Justice Roberts wants his legacy to be a catastrophic decline in public support ... for the United States Supreme Court. And that's why this ought to be easy."



## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Tucker Carlson joked about deporting me on air for ‘good TV.’ That’s the kind of host he was

When I learned on Monday that Tucker Carlson and Fox News had “agreed to part ways,” I gasped. The most anti-immigrant broadcaster on television had just been taken off the air. For someone like me, who came to this country as a child, unwittingly undocumented, and who, like millions of others, has been waiting decades for a path to citizenship, Carlson represents the scariest of boogymen. He hates me and other human beings he calls “illegal.”

Or does he?

I’ve been a guest on various Fox News shows over the years, and appeared on Carlson’s show three times. I did it to demonstrate to Fox viewers that the immigrants that Carlson constructed nightly — the rapists, the thugs, the freeloaders — were just convenient figments of his imagination. “Here I am,” I hoped to convey to people watching, “I’m just a person, like you, paying my taxes (did you even know that undocumented workers pay taxes and contribute to Social Security?), living my life, calling this country my home.”

But to Carlson, it was all a performance.

Just before we went live for what would be my final appearance on his show, he said to me: “We should have just called ICE on you.”

At that moment, I understood that my life, my undocumented status, the fact that I haven’t been able to hug my mother since I left the Philippines at age 12 — these were not things that he could perceive with any sort of humanity. They were mere props to be used in his daredevil ideological stunts. “That would have been good TV,” he noted about calling ICE on me.

We have seen his kind before. He’s Elmer Gantry, Larry “Lonesome” Rhodes, Willie Stark, Charles Coughlin, Logan Roy. Real or created, there’s nothing new about these greedy showmen. They want the usual things: money, power, adulation. Carlson has sickened a vast swath of Americans with his poisonous words.

For the past five years, Carlson has been airing segments on the racist conspiracy theory known as “great replacement” — the idea that an elite cabal (often Jewish) is pushing to increase immigration from nonwhite countries, which will ultimately result in a civilizational shift in once-majority-white nations like the United States. In one monologue from April 2021, Carlson mentioned the idea by name: “I know that the left and all the little gatekeepers on Twitter become literally hysterical if you use the term ‘replacement,’ if you suggest that the Democratic Party is trying to replace the current electorate — the voters now casting ballots — with new people, more obedient voters from the Third World. But they become hysterical because that’s what’s happening, actually. Let’s just say it. That’s true.”

Carlson repeatedly warned viewers that Democrats were “importing” new citizens “to replace the disobedient ones.” In 2021, Carlson likened the Biden administration’s immigration policy to “eugenics” against white people.

In more than 400 episodes, Carlson has amplified the idea that Democratic politicians and others want to force demographic change through immigration, totaling more than 50 hours of talking since November 2016, according to The New York Times’ analysis of 1,150 episodes.

This theory may sound fringe, but more than 50% of Republicans believe that in the future, white Americans will have fewer rights than people of color. The scale of the impact of “great replacement” theory is clearly attributable to its widespread presence online, where the theory has been repackaged and spread through viral videos, news stories and memes. Fox News is just the loudest megaphone among many.

Last year, Define American, the organization that I founded after I revealed my undocumented status in 2011, studied the most viral anti-immigration videos of the previous 15 years on YouTube. We found that the “great replacement” was a foundational narrative across most of the videos, which time and

By JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS

Los Angeles Times

*Jose Antonio Vargas, the founder of the organization Define American, is the author of Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen.*



again painted a vision of America under an attack from inferior foreign cultural influences.

We discovered a collection of thousands of channels and videos that villainized undocumented immigrants and legal immigrants that we call the “Great Replacement Network.” And Fox News’ YouTube channel has the highest audience overlap with other YouTube channels that promote “great replacement” theory.

This is troubling because about 26% of all U.S. adults say they get news on YouTube, and 73% of them trust it, never mind that 77% of teens say they use YouTube daily. We found that YouTube viewership around immigration in particular leads to real-world action. We polled likely voters in swing states, and found that 21 percent said YouTube content had changed their vote for a representative. For better or worse, though?

And that is why it is hard to feel any sort of satisfaction in his departure, as op-ed columnist LZ Granderson wrote on Monday in the L.A. Times: “I don’t get my hopes up about whom Fox News will anoint as the next Tucker Carlson. Fear-mongering and appealing to our lower selves are still profitable.”

“How do you feel?” A friend texted me.

I laughed to myself. Tucker Carlson and I finally have something in common.

“I don’t feel anything at all,” I responded.

## I was diagnosed with autism at 33. Here is why autism diagnostic tests leave females behind.

When I was 10, sitting around a picnic table with a bunch of girls from camp, I made a mistake. They were laughing, all making fun of Linda, one of our counselors. Though I didn’t get the jokes, I mimicked their laughter. When Linda walked up to us, I immediately told her what everyone had been saying. I assumed she’d find it funny, too. But she didn’t smile. And the girls became upset and refused to talk to me for the rest of the summer.

I didn’t understand what I’d done wrong.

Throughout adolescence, I did my best to mirror the social behavior of my most “normal” peers, copying the way they walked and flipped their hair. In the hallways, I avoided eye contact. On sidewalks, I practiced smiling at strangers, and they often smiled back. Still, I felt like an alien impersonating a human.

In high school, my social challenges were compounded by increasing academic struggles. When fully focused, I read a page every eight minutes, so I was often up until 3 o’clock in the morning completing my homework. At my parents’ request, I underwent neuropsychological testing and was diagnosed with slow-processing speed. Further testing concluded that I had attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder.

At 17, I told my parents I could “only be happy while hiking alone,” which concerned them deeply. I withdrew from people because navigating social interactions was so confounding and exhausting—but I craved connection and belonging.

On my second night of college, I was sexually assaulted by a boy I had just met. In an attempt to walk off the shame and pain, I fled school and went to the desert, where I could be alone. I then hiked from Mexico all the way to Canada—2,650 miles, mountainous and quiet. On the trail, I enjoyed freedom from the need to pick out clothes or shower or make small talk.

Following my long trek, I struggled to support myself, the daily responsibilities of a full-time job too overwhelming. After withdrawing and reenrolling four times at three universities, I finally completed my undergraduate degree at 32 years old.

In a psychopathology class, we were shown the short film

“What Women With Autism Want You to Know,” in which several women on the autism spectrum share their experiences with the condition. Watching, I learned that people with autism tend to have difficulty detecting subtle social cues; can become exhausted by interactions with new people due to the effort of “masking,” or suppressing natural quirks in hopes of fitting in; and are often very trusting, taking people at their word.

I was riveted. These strangers felt more familiar to me than any peer I’d ever known. They articulated my secrets, speaking of “odd” habits and misunderstandings common in my life. And from the way these women spoke and looked, I never would have known that any of them had autism. I’d always pictured “autistic” as someone who acted like Dustin Hoffman’s character in “Rain Man,” or a little boy unable to talk or make eye contact.

In the weeks that followed, I researched the condition obsessively, reading every scientific study I could find. When I learned that almost 90% of females on the spectrum will be sexually assaulted during their lifetimes (by age 25, I had been violated by four men), and 85% of autistic adults are unemployed or underemployed, the denial began to fade.

A month after I watched the film, I underwent a formal psychological assessment with a doctor who had treated girls and women on the spectrum. At age 33, I received an autism diagnosis.

Somehow, despite many signs and symptoms and multiple neuropsychological assessments, my autism had gone undetected. Why did the diagnosis take so long?

To my amazement, there was an answer to this question. For every three boys who are diagnosed with autism, one girl is diagnosed—but this is not because three times as many males have autism. Rather, the disparity is due to the reality that the majority of autism assessment tests and diagnostic criteria were derived from research studies involving the observation of boys, not girls. A consequential oversight, as autism can look quite different—and more subtle—in girls than boys.

The vast majority of women on the autism spectrum will

By ASPEN MATIS

Chicago Tribune

*Aspen Matis is the author of the books Girl in the Woods and Your Blue Is Not My Blue.*



never be diagnosed. Many are not diagnosed until well into adulthood, sometimes only when their own children are assessed. Or, as I experienced, they will be misdiagnosed and labeled with other cognitive conditions or intellectual disabilities. These errors are not harmless; misdiagnosis can lead to inappropriate or ineffective treatment, even exacerbating some of autism’s most debilitating symptoms.

The bottom line is: Autism tests are failing girls and women, and assessment methods must be updated to narrow the diagnostic gap between the sexes.

All my life, I had viewed myself as lazy. As too sensitive and too easily overwhelmed. As slow and fatally awkward. As broken in a fundamental way. A song set to a different—faulty—beat. But the diagnosis has altered these self-perceptions, bringing me great relief.

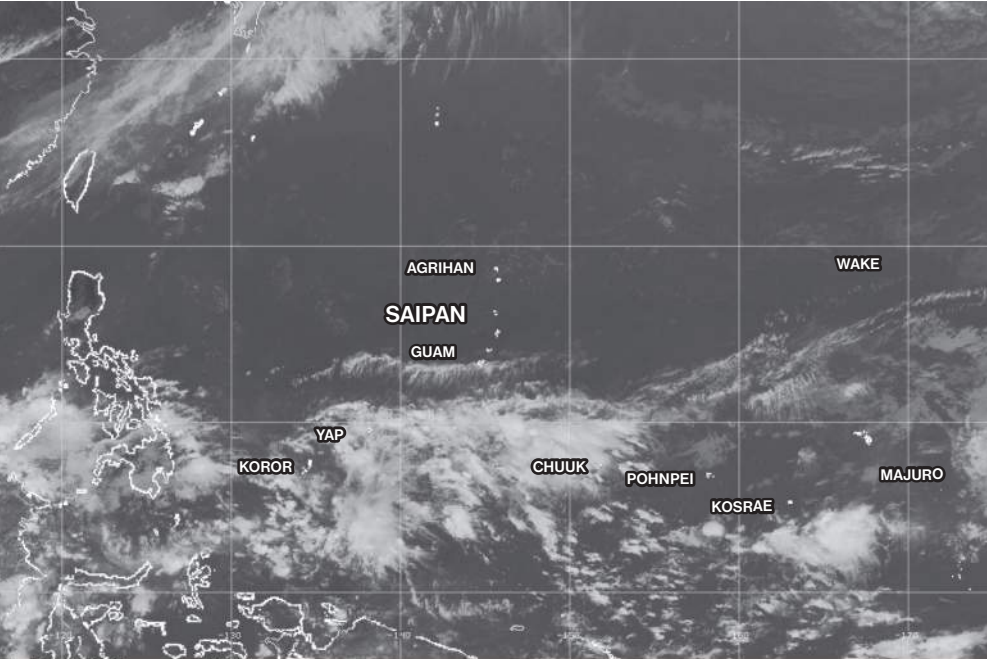
And as my understanding of autism grows, I’ve learned that the condition is inexorably linked to the traits that I love most about myself. My inquisitive nature. My ability to hyperfocus on intense special interest projects. My tendency to see the best in people. Those on the spectrum often retain the innocent way children view the world before cynicism darkens their horizons—and I wouldn’t trade that sunny lens for the ability to notice subtle sarcasm.

Autism explains so many of my struggles, the quirks I’ve been ashamed of all my life—separating the morality from the neurology in a way that sets me free. There is comfort and belonging in knowing that I am not a defective horse but a normal zebra.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
88°	77°	86°	77°	86°	76°	88°	76°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 7:30 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed only isolated showers over the Marianas this morning. East trade-winds prevail over the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:51 AM	2:50 PM
Tuesday	-	3:26 AM	3:38 PM
Wednesday	-	4:01 AM	4:27 PM
Thursday	-	4:37 AM	5:17 PM
Friday	-	5:15 AM	6:11 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	72° / 59°	
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 21°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°	
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 73°	
London	Sunny	43° / 34°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 53°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Rain	66° / 55°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 71°	
New York	Showers	53° / 36°	
Osaka	Sunny	52° / 39°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 28°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	55° / 39°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	45° / 32°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	50° / 39°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	54° / 34°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:15 AM	High Tide	1.80	
11:25 AM	Low Tide	0.92	
4:44 PM	High Tide	1.54	
11:02 PM	Low Tide	0.56	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)



## Business

# Zanduetta, Mendez receive top honors at Marpac



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marpac Beverage on-premise sales representative Roderick Zanduetta, left, with Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney.

**R**oderick Zanduetta and Eugene Mendez of Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc., received top honors for their service in 2022.

Zanduetta earned Salesperson of the Year, a.k.a. "The Top Gun" award, which recognizes the sales representative who exceeds sales goals, builds customer relationships, and understands the customer's business.

"Roderick did a tremendous job for us in only his first full year on the job. He's a true

professional who understands the ins and outs of what it takes to be a top-quality salesman," said Marpac resident manager, Guy Pudney.

For his efforts, Zanduetta received a cash prize and plaque, his name inscribed on the Salesperson of the Year perpetual trophy and, above all, bragging rights.

Employee of the Year honors were bestowed upon Mendez in recognition for his efforts and contributions in propelling the company's vision.

"Eugene is a very dedicated and committed employee. It's a true asset having him on our team. Hats off to him and our other nominees, Allen Mendiola, Roderick Zanduetta, Chantilly Kaipat, Tom Basa, and Heather Popa," added Pudney.

Mendez also collected a cash prize and plaque, a space on the Employee of the Year perpetual trophy, but also a highly coveted reserved parking spot.

Awards were presented at the annual employee New Year's celebration which

took place last Feb. 4 at Micro Beach.

Marpac is a responsible and upstanding family-owned business, built on a foundation of service. Its mission is to provide the best products to our customers, and be a local partner helping to bring communities together, as well as supporting their growth to excellence.

"From our family to yours - Marpac is committed to serving the people of the CNMI, now, and for generations to come," said Pudney. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marpac Consumer sales representative Eugene Mendez, left, with Marpac resident manager Guy Pudney.

## Fed faults Silicon Valley Bank officials, itself in bank failure

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Federal Reserve blamed last month's collapse of Silicon Valley Bank on poor management, watered-down regulations and lax oversight by its own staffers, and said the industry needs stricter policing on multiple fronts to prevent future bank failures.

The Fed was highly critical of its own role in the bank's failure in a report compiled by Michael Barr, the Fed's chief regulator, and released Friday. As Silicon Valley Bank grew rapidly beginning in 2018, banking supervisors were slow to recognize problems that eventually contributed to the bank's downfall, including an increasing amount of uninsured deposits and inadequate safeguards against a sudden change in interest rates. Once those problems were identified, supervisors appeared unwilling to press the bank's management to address the issues, the report said.

The passive approach stemmed from actions taken by Congress and the Fed in 2018 and 2019 that lightened rules and regulations for banks with less than \$250 billion in assets, the report concluded. Both Silicon Valley Bank and New York-based Signature Bank, which also failed last month, had assets below that level.

The changes increased the burden on regulators to justify

the need for supervisory action, the report said. "In some cases, the changes also led to slower action by supervisory staff and a reluctance to escalate issues."

A separate report from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said the failure of Signature Bank was likely fallout from the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank. The FDIC also found its own regulatory deficiencies, notably insufficient staffing to adequately supervise Signature Bank, which was based in New York. The agency also took a light-handed approach to regulation, the report found.

Both SVB and Signature had large amounts of deposits that exceeded the FDIC's insurance cap, making them vulnerable to a panic. SVB's wealthy clients, many in the tech industry, fled after the bank said it needed to raise capital. Signature's customers appeared to get nervous about the developments at SVB, as well as Signature's large exposure to cryptocurrencies, which accounted for 20% of its assets.

In its report, the Fed said it plans to reexamine how it regulates larger regional banks such as Silicon Valley Bank, which had more than \$200 billion in assets when it failed, although less than the \$250 billion threshold for greater regulation.

## Hong appointed Hyatt director of Rooms

Ally Hong is the new director of Rooms of Hyatt Regency Saipan. She joined the team last month bringing her 22 years of experience in the hospitality industry. A seasoned hotelier, Hong is responsible for improving Hyatt's room services, developing and monitoring revenue, and most of all, focus on creating and giving excellent guest experience from the moment they make the booking to check-out

and beyond.

Hong holds a degree in Business Administration in European Studies in the Division of International and Area Studies. She started her hospitality career as housekeeping order taker and room inspector in Lotte Hotel Ulsan in 2001.

Two years later, she started her career with Hyatt and held the position shift leader



Hong

guest services and reservations at Hyatt Regency Incheon. In 2007 to 2019, Hong branched out of Marriott Executive Apartments Seoul and Sheraton Incheon.

Hong's passion in handling rooms and revenue placed her in various roles that includes front office manager, executive housekeeper, specializing in room operating systems and heading revenue

departments as executive director of revenue strategy.

Hong returned to the Hyatt family as housekeeping manager at Grand Hyatt Seoul in 2019 and advanced to director of rooms in 2021. She is excited to work on Saipan and is ready to boost further Hyatt Regency Saipan in meeting guest needs and expectations from a Hyatt brand. Say "hafa adai" to her on your next visit at Hyatt. **(PR)**



# Nation

## Texas man kills 5 neighbors after they complained of gunfire

**CLEVELAND, Texas** (AP)—A Texas man went next door with a rifle and fatally shot five of his neighbors, including an 8-year-old boy, after they asked him to stop firing rounds in his yard because they were trying to sleep, authorities said Saturday.

The suspect, identified as 38-year-old Francisco Oropeza, remained at large more than 18 hours after the shooting and authorities warned that he might still be armed. The attack happened just before midnight Friday near the town of Cleveland, north of Houston, on a street where some residents say it is not uncommon to hear neighbors unwind by firing off guns.

San Jacinto County Sheriff Greg Capers said Oropeza used an AR-style rifle, and as the search for him dragged into Saturday evening, authorities had widened their efforts to as far as “10 to 20 miles” from the murder scene. He said Oropeza may still have a weapon but that he believes authorities have the rifle used in the shooting.

Capers said they found clothes and a phone while combing a rural area that includes dense layers of forest but that tracking dogs had lost the scent.

“He could be anywhere now,” Capers said.

Capers said the victims



AP  
San Jacinto County Sheriff Greg Capers talks to investigators at the scene where five people were shot and killed the night before, Saturday, April 29, 2023, in unincorporated San Jacinto County, Texas.

were between the ages of 8 and 31 years old and that all were believed to be from Honduras. All were shot “from the neck up,” he said.

The attack was the latest act of gun violence in what has been a record pace of mass shootings in the U.S. so far this year, some of which have also involved semiautomatic rifles.

The mass killings have played out in a variety of

places—a Nashville school, a Kentucky bank, a Southern California dance hall, and now a rural Texas neighborhood inside a single-story home.

Capers said there were 10 people in the house—some of whom had just moved there earlier in the week—but that that no one else was injured. He said two of the victims were found in a bedroom laying over two chil-

dren in an apparent attempt to shield them.

A total of three children found covered in blood in the home were taken to a hospital but found to be uninjured, Capers said.

FBI spokesperson Christina Garza said investigators do not believe everyone at the home were members of a single family. The victims were identified as Sonia Ar-

gentina Guzman, 25; Diana Velazquez Alvarado, 21; Juliana Molina Rivera, 31; Jose Jonathan Casarez, 18; and Daniel Enrique Laso, 8.

The confrontation followed the neighbors walking up to the fence and asking the suspect to stop shooting rounds, Capers said. The suspect responded by telling them that it was his property, Capers said, and one person in the

house got a video of the suspect walking up to the front door with the rifle.

The shooting took place on a rural pothole-riddled street where single-story homes sit on wide 1-acre lots and are surrounded by a thick canopy of trees. A horse could be seen behind the victim’s home, while in the front yard of Oropeza’s house a dog and chickens wandered.

Rene Arevalo Sr., who lives a few houses down, said he heard gunshots around midnight but didn’t think anything of it.

“It’s a normal thing people do around here, especially on Fridays after work,” Arevalo said. “They get home and start drinking in their backyards and shooting out there.”

Capers said his deputies had been to Oropeza’s home at least once before and spoken with him about “shooting his gun in the yard.” It was not clear whether any action was taken at the time. At a news conference Saturday evening, the sheriff said firing a gun on your own property can be illegal, but he did not say whether Oropeza had previously broken the law.

Capers said the new arrivals in the home had moved from Houston earlier in the week, but he said he did not know whether they were planning to stay there.

## Biden plan aims to stem border migration as restrictions end

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—With COVID-19 immigration restrictions set to expire, the Biden administration on Thursday announced measures meant to stop migrants from illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, both by cracking down on many of those who do come, and by creating new pathways meant to offer an alternative to the dangerous journey.

The effort includes opening processing centers outside the United States for people fleeing violence and poverty to apply to fly in legally and settle in the United States, Spain or Canada. The first processing centers will open in Guatemala and Colombia, with others expected to follow.

The administration also plans to swiftly screen migrants seeking asylum at the border itself, quickly deport those deemed as not being qualified, and penalizing people who cross illegally into the U.S. or illegally through another country on their way to the U.S. border.

But it is unclear whether the measures will do much to slow the tide of migrants fleeing countries marred by political

and economic strife. Further increasing the pressure is the looming end of public health rules instituted amid the pandemic that allowed for quickly expelling many migrants and set to expire on May 11.

“This is a hemispheric challenge that demands hemispheric solutions,” said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas during a news conference as he laid out how the U.S. is working with other countries in the region.

Mayorkas also warned that migrants and human smugglers should not interpret the upcoming deadline to mean that everyone should come: “Let me be clear, our border is not open and will not be open after May 11.”

Immigration has vexed Biden throughout his presidency, with top GOP leaders hammering him as soft on border security. Immigrant advocates, meanwhile, argue that the president is abandoning humanitarian efforts with stricter measures meant to keep migrants from coming illegally.

The topic isn’t going away. As he announces his 2024 reelection bid, Biden is trying to

strike a balance that could be difficult to achieve, particularly if crowds of migrants end up in border facilities after May 11.

The administration has also repeatedly pointed to Congress, saying it has been unable to come to an agreement on comprehensive immigration reform.

The efforts announced Thursday build on a carrot-and-stick

approach to immigration that the administration has been increasingly using, whereby they offer incentives like humanitarian parole visas for hundreds of thousands of people and harsh consequences for many who come to the border. Those have so far included:

■ Processing centers: The administration will open mi-

gration centers in numerous countries starting with Guatemala and Colombia to be run by the International Organization of Migration and the U.N. agency tasked with helping refugees. There potential migrants can get information on various ways they can migrate to the United States, such as applying for refugee status or a worker program. The administration said both Canada and

Spain have said they’d take migrants referred from these centers, although no specific numbers were given. The U.S. also said it would double the number of refugees taken from Central and South America. No specific number was given there, either, but during fiscal year 2023 the U.S. pledged to accept 15,000 refugees from Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Trump ups competition with DeSantis in planning trip to Iowa

**DES MOINES, Iowa** (AP)—The competition between Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis is intensifying as the former president is scheduling a return trip to Iowa on the same day that the Florida governor was already going to be in the state that will kick off the Republican contest for the White House.

A Trump campaign official said Saturday that the former president plans to be in Iowa on May 13 to headline an organizing rally at a sprawling park in downtown Des Moines. That’s when DeSantis was already slated to headline Iowa Rep. Randy Feenstra’s annual summer fundraiser in north-

west Iowa and speak at a party fundraiser later that evening in Cedar Rapids.

The Trump campaign official, who requested anonymity to discuss the trip before it was announced, said the Des Moines organizing rally has been in the planning stage for weeks and is aimed at identifying caucus supporters and volunteers.

The move is a sign of the escalating competition between the two men who, at least for now, are leading contenders for the Republican presidential nomination. Trump and his allies have become increasingly emboldened in their ef-

orts to attack and marginalize DeSantis, who is expected to announce his White House bid sometime after the Florida Legislature wraps up its work in the coming week.

But Trump’s trip is also notable for its emphasis on the type of ground-level organizing that is vital in Iowa politics and was often missing during his 2016 campaign, when Texas Sen. Ted Cruz overtook him and won the state’s GOP caucuses.

Trump has been almost singularly focused on swinging at DeSantis, whom he has attacked for policy positions on entitlement reform, his loyalty to conservative causes, even

his character. While DeSantis has largely ignored Trump’s jabs, a pro-DeSantis super political action committee, Never Back Down, began to respond in paid ads this month.

Meanwhile, the super PAC promoting DeSantis is hiring Iowa staff to begin organizing support for the governor before he enters the race.

The stakes for both men are particularly high in Iowa, where the caucuses in February offer opportunities for them to cement their status atop the GOP. A poor performance, however, would give an opening for other Republicans to mount an upstart campaign.



# Asia

## PH confronts China over sea claims

**ABOARD BRP MALABRIGO** (AP)—A Chinese coast guard ship blocked a Philippine patrol vessel steaming into a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, causing a frightening near-collision in the latest act of Beijing's aggression in the strategic waterway.

The high seas face-off April 23 between the larger Chinese ship and the Philippine coast guard's BRP Malapascua near Second Thomas Shoal was among the tense moments it and another Philippine vessel encountered in a weeklong sovereignty patrol in one of the world's most hotly contested waterways.

The Philippine coast guard had invited a small group of journalists, including three from The Associated Press, to join the 1,670-kilometer (1,038-mile) patrol for the first time as part of a new Philippine strategy aimed at exposing China's increasingly aggressive actions in the South China Sea, where an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade transits each year.

In scorching summer heat but relatively calm waters, the Malapascua and another Philippine coast guard vessel, the BRP Malabrigo, journeyed to the frontlines of the long-seething territorial conflicts. They cruised past a string of widely scattered Philippine-occupied and claimed islands, islets and reefs looking for signs of encroachment, illegal fishing and other threats.

In areas occupied or controlled by China, the Philippine

patrol vessels received radio warnings in Chinese and halting English, ordering them to immediately leave what the Chinese coast guard and navy radio callers claimed were Beijing's "undisputable territories" and issuing unspecified threats for defiance.

Hostilities peaked that Sunday morning in the Philippine-occupied Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly archipelago, the most fiercely contested region in the busy sea channel.

As the two patrol vessels approached the shoal's shallow turquoise waters for an underwater survey, the Chinese coast guard repeatedly warned them by radio to leave the area, which is about 194 kilometers (121 miles) west of the Philippine island province of Palawan.

After several radio exchanges, a Chinese coast guard caller, sounding agitated, warned of unspecified adversarial action.

"Since you have disregarded our warning, we will take further necessary measures on you in accordance with the laws and any consequences entailed will be borne by you," the Chinese speaker said.

A Chinese coast guard ship rapidly approached and shadowed the smaller Malapascua and the Malabrigo. When the Malapascua maneuvered toward the mouth of the shoal, the Chinese ship suddenly shifted to block it, coming as close as 36 to 46 meters (120 to 150 feet) from its bow, said Malapascua's skipper, Capt. Rodel Hernandez.

To avoid a collision, Hernandez abruptly reversed his vessel's direction then shut off its engine to bring the boat to a full stop.

Filipino personnel aboard the vessels — and journalists, who captured the tense moment on camera — watched in frightened silence. But the Malapascua steered just in time to avoid a potential disaster.

Hernandez later told journalists that the "sudden and really very dangerous maneuver" by the Chinese coast guard ship had disregarded international rules on collision avoidance. He had the Philippine vessels leave the area after the encounter for the safety of the ships and personnel.

Earlier, a huge Chinese navy ship shadowed the two Philippine patrol vessels in the dark of night as they cruised near Subi, one of seven barren reefs China has transformed in the last decade into a missile-protected island base. The Chinese navy ship radioed the Philippine vessels "to immediately leave and keep out."

The coast guard radioed back to assert Philippine sovereign rights to the area before steaming away.

China has long demanded that the Philippines withdraw its small contingent of naval forces and tow away the actively commissioned but crumbling BRP Sierra Madre. The navy ship was deliberately marooned on the shoal in 1999 and now serves as a fragile symbol of Manila's territorial claim to the atoll.

## N. Korea insults Biden, slams defense agreement with Seoul

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—The powerful sister of North Korea's leader says her country would stage more provocative displays of its military might in response to a new U.S.-South Korean agreement to intensify nuclear deterrence to counter the North's nuclear threat, which she insists shows their "extreme" hostility toward Pyongyang.

Kim Yo Jong also lobbed personal insults toward U.S. President Joe Biden, who after a summit with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday stated that any North Korean nuclear attack on the U.S. or its allies would "result in the end of whatever regime" took such action.

Biden's meeting with Yoon in Washington came amid heightened tensions in the Korean Peninsula as the pace of both the North Korean weapons demonstrations and the combined U.S.-South Korean military exercises have increased in a cycle of tit-for-tat.

Since the start of 2022, North Korea has test-fired around 100 missiles, including multiple demonstrations of intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to reach the U.S. mainland and a slew of short-range launches the North described as simulated nuclear strikes on South Korea.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is widely expected to up the ante in coming weeks or months as he continues to accelerate a campaign aimed at cementing the North's status as a nuclear power and eventually negotiating U.S. economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

During their summit, Biden and Yoon announced new nuclear deterrence efforts that call for periodically docking U.S. nuclear-armed submarines in South Korea for the first time in decades and bolstering training between the two countries. They also committed to plans for bilateral presidential consultations in the event of a

North Korean nuclear attack, the establishment of a nuclear consultative group and improved sharing of information on nuclear and strategic weapons operation plans.

In her comments published on state media, Kim Yo Jong said the U.S.-South Korean agreement reflected the allies' "most hostile and aggressive will of action" against the North and will push regional peace and security into "more serious danger."

Kim, who is one of her brother's top foreign policy officials, said the summit further strengthened the North's conviction to enhance its nuclear arms capabilities. She said it would be especially important for the North to perfect the "second mission of the nuclear war deterrent," in an apparent reference to the country's escalatory nuclear doctrine that calls for preemptive nuclear strikes over a broad range of scenarios where it may perceive its leadership as under threat.

# World

## Sudan civilian deaths top 400



AP  
In this photo provided by the UK Ministry of Defence, British Nationals prepare to be evacuated onto a RAF aircraft at Wadi Seidna Air Base, in Sudan, Thursday, April 27, 2023.

**CAIRO** (AP)—Gunfire and heavy artillery fire persisted Saturday in parts of Sudan's capital Khartoum, residents said, despite the extension of a cease-fire between the country's two top generals, whose battle for power has killed hundreds and sent thousands fleeing for their lives.

With ordinary Sudanese caught in the crossfire, the civilian death toll jumped Saturday to 411 people, according to the Sudan Doctors' Syndicate, which monitors casualties. In some areas in and around the capital, residents reported that shops were reopening and nor-

malcy gradually returning as the scale of fighting dwindled after the shaky truce. But in other areas, terrified residents reported explosions thundering around them and fighters ransacking houses.

Now in its third week, the fighting has wounded 2,023 civilians, the syndicate added, although the true toll is expected to be much higher. The Sudanese Health Ministry put the overall death toll, including fighters, at 528, with 4,500 wounded. In the city of Genena, the provincial capital of war-ravaged West Darfur, intensified vio-

lence has killed 89 people, the Doctors' Syndicate said.

Khartoum, a city of some 5 million people, has been transformed into a front line in the grinding conflict between Gen. Abdel Fattah Burhan, the commander of Sudan's military, and Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, who leads the powerful paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces. The outbreak of violence has dashed once-euphoric hopes for a democratic transition in Sudan after a popular uprising helped oust former dictator Omar al-Bashir.

## Russian missile, drone attack kills 23 people in Ukraine

**UMAN, Ukraine** (AP)—Russia fired more than 20 cruise missiles and two drones at Ukraine early Friday, killing at least 23 people, almost all of them when two missiles slammed into an apartment building in a terrifying nighttime attack, officials said. Three children were among the dead.

The missile attacks included the first one against Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, in nearly two months, although there were no reports of any targets hit. The city government said Ukraine's air force intercepted 11 cruise missiles and two unmanned aerial vehicles over Kyiv.

The strikes on the nine-story residential building in central Ukraine occurred in Uman, a city located around 215 kilometers (134 miles) south of Kyiv. Twenty-one people died in that attack, according to Ukraine's National Police. They included two 10-year-old children and a toddler.

Another of the victims was a 75-year-old woman who lived in a neighboring

building and suffered internal bleeding from the huge blast's shock wave, according to emergency personnel at the scene.

The Ukrainian national police said 17 people were wounded and three children were rescued from the rubble. Nine were hospitalized.

The bombardment was nowhere near the war's sprawling front lines or active combat zones in eastern Ukraine, where a grinding war of attrition has taken hold. Moscow has frequently launched long-range missile attacks during the 14-month war, often indiscriminately hitting civilian areas.

Ukrainian officials and analysts have alleged such strikes are part of a deliberate intimidation strategy by the Kremlin.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the long-range cruise missiles launched overnight were aimed at places where Ukrainian military reserve units were staying before their deployment to the battlefield.

"The strike has achieved its goal. All the designated facili-

ties have been hit," Lt. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, the Defense Ministry's spokesperson, said. He didn't mention any specific areas or residential buildings getting hit.

Survivors of the Uman strikes recounted terrifying moments as the missiles hit when it still was dark outside.

Halyna, a building resident, said she and her husband were covered in glass by the blast. They saw flames outside their window and scrambled out, but first Halyna checked whether her friend in a neighboring apartment was OK.

"I was calling, calling her (on the phone), but she didn't pick up. I even rang the doorbell, but still no answer," she told The Associated Press. She used the spare keys from her friend's apartment and went inside to check on her. She found her lying dead on her apartment floor.

Halyna refused to provide her last name out of security concerns.

Another building resident, Olha Turina, told the AP that glass from the explosion flew everywhere.



# Health & Wellness

SLEEP, FOOD, EXERCISE, STRESS:

## Why working on one of these can improve the others

By SHARON THEIMER  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Sleeping enough, eating well, exercising and coping with stress are all components of good health, but focusing on all four at once while managing a hectic schedule may seem impossible. Safia Debar, M.B.B.S., an expert in tailored medical exams at Mayo Clinic Healthcare in London, explains how giving a little extra attention to any one of these areas can improve the others.

“By pulling any of these levers, you can have a big impact on your health,” Dr. Debar says.

It all starts in the brain, Dr. Debar says. It can be in a state of “rest, repair and relaxation,” in which, assuming general good health, the body is functioning optimally, or the brain can be in a stress state,

in which the body’s primary concern becomes handling one or more perceived threats and other physical needs are relegated to second place, she says.

“Our brain does not distinguish. The perception of threat and real threat are the same, so once that button is pressed, the same cascade ensues,” Dr. Debar says.

Stress can impact sleeping, eating and exercising. For example, when the brain is in a stress state, it is thinking in the short term and focused on feeling better immediately. That’s why it’s common to crave sugary and/or fatty foods and not make the effort to exercise when stressed: The brain tells the body it needs immediate energy, Dr. Debar says.

“The brain wants to feel better right now, so it’s not going

to think about going to exercise and then feeling better afterward,” she says. “It’s all intertwined.”

Similarly, sleeping, eating and exercising can affect how we handle stress. Key questions to ask yourself include:

- “What is my sleep like?” If it’s not good, maybe that’s where to place your attention, by going to bed earlier or changing another aspect of your sleep routine, Dr. Debar says.
- “How is my gut functioning?” If you are having digestive problems, it may help to optimize your nutrition, Dr. Debar says.
- “What is my social support like?” That can affect mood, she says.
- “Do I find certain things are making me feel stressed?” For example, if checking

email before bed or immediately upon waking generates stress, think about how to change that part of your routine to maintain calm, Dr. Debar says.

■ “What kind of exercise am I getting?” If the answer isn’t much, try to find ways to incorporate more movement into your day, she says.

“By helping your gut, that might be enough for you, or helping your sleep, that might be enough for you,” Dr. Debar says. “It’s those simple foundational elements that can have huge impact. Be intentional about certain things.”

Pulling these levers of health ourselves can feel empowering, she says.

“It’s not, ‘A doctor said I had to lose weight and sleep and reduce my stress.’ When you understand the foundations of health, it then doesn’t become about you having low self-control, or procrastinating, or not being disciplined,” Dr. Debar says. “Instead, how do we take what you have in your life and embed these practices in it?”

### MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

## Signs and symptoms of asthma



By DEB BALZER  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Asthma is a global issue. It’s estimated that more than 334 million people around the world have asthma. It’s a chronic disease that makes it hard to breathe. Asthma often starts in childhood, but can develop in people of any age and is common in adults as well. Symptoms of asthma can range from mild to life-threatening.

Dr. James Li, a Mayo Clinic allergist, talks about the signs and symptoms of asthma in this Mayo Clinic Minute.

“Asthma is a lower airway condition affecting the bronchial tubes. The typical symptoms of asthma would be shortness of breath, chest tightness, cough and wheezing,” says Dr. Li.

During what’s called an

asthma exacerbation, the bronchial tubes tend to constrict.

“And there’s also inflammation and swelling and mucus inside the bronchial tube, which can block the airflow,” he says.

Everyone experiences asthma differently with different triggers.

“Pollen or mold in the air, it’s often allergic asthma coexisting with allergic rhinitis, but also exercise, cold air and viral upper respiratory infections,” Dr. Li says.

Bronchial inhalers and other asthma medication can bring quick relief.

“If someone is experiencing an asthma exacerbation and they have trouble sleeping, trouble completing a sentence or trouble walking on level ground, that really warrants immediate attention. And there’s good treatment for it,” he says.

Asthma symptoms may flare up due to a number of triggers. It’s not clear why some people are affected and some are not. And there may be some hereditary and environmental factors that may increase a person’s risk for developing asthma.

Risk factors for asthma may include:

- Hereditary - having a family member with asthma
- Allergies such as hay fever
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Exposure to second-hand smoke
- Exposure to fumes or chemicals

If you think you or your child may have asthma, seek medical treatment. Treating asthma early may prevent long-term lung damage and help keep the condition from getting worse over time.

## Under 40? What you should know about testicular cancer



By ALEX OSIADACZ  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Approximately 1 of every 250 men in the U.S. will develop testicular cancer, with an average age of 33 at the time of diagnosis, according to the American Cancer Society.

Men ages 20 to 40 are the primary group diagnosed with testicular cancer. While highly treatable, early detection can affect outcomes.

“The majority of testicular cancers are actually painless,” says Timothy Lyon, M.D., a Mayo Clinic urologist and oncologist. “Men should not be reassured if they’re not having pain. If something feels abnormal, it still needs to be evaluated.”

Start with monthly self-examinations to make sure there are no abnormal ridges, bumps or masses on either testicle. Risk factors include if a testicle did not fully descend at birth, or if there is family history or a previous personal history of testicular cancer.

“We are able to cure almost all men affected with testicular cancer, no matter what stage of disease they present with,” Dr. Lyon says.

Treatment starts by removing the affected testicle, and may require chemotherapy, radiation or additional surgery.

Many patients ask whether

they can still have children after testicular cancer.

“Many men, particularly those with early stage testicular cancer are able to preserve

their fertility and not have any change in their likelihood of being able to father a child,” Dr. Lyon says. “But, of course, every situation is different.”

### Healthy Living

## Two slices

The calorie counts for two slices of a 14 in. (36 cm) pizza vary widely, depending on the kind of pie you order.

	Cheese only	Cheese and pepperoni	Cheese, veggies, meat
Thin crust	384	416	504
Regular crust	544	596	664
Thick crust	576	608	696

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, TNS Photo Service

A close-up, black and white photograph of a pizza. The focus is on the toppings, which include what appears to be pepperoni and some leafy greens or vegetables. The pizza is cut into slices.



# Life & Style

## Jerry Springer, politician turned TV ringmaster, dies at 79

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Jerry Springer, the onetime mayor and news anchor whose namesake TV show featured a three-ring circus of dysfunctional guests willing to bare all—sometimes literally—as they brawled and hurled obscenities before a raucous audience, died Thursday at 79.

At its peak, “The Jerry Springer Show” was a ratings powerhouse and a U.S. cultural pariah, synonymous with lurid drama. Known for chair-throwing and bleep-filled arguments, the daytime talk show was a favorite American guilty pleasure over its 27-year run, at one point topping Oprah Winfrey’s show. Springer called it “escapist entertainment,” while others saw the show as contributing to a dumbing-down decline in American social values.

“Jerry’s ability to connect with people was at the heart of his success in everything he tried whether that was politics, broadcasting or just joking with people on the street who wanted a photo or a word,” said Jene Galvin, a family spokesperson and friend of Springer’s since 1970, in a statement. “He’s irreplaceable and his loss hurts immensely, but memories of his intellect, heart and humor will live on.”

Springer died peacefully at home in suburban Chicago after a brief illness, the statement said.

On his Twitter profile, Springer jokingly declared himself as “Talk show host, ringmaster of civilization’s end.” He also often had told people, tongue in cheek, that his wish for them was “may you never

be on my show.”

After more than 4,000 episodes, the show ended in 2018, never straying from its core salaciousness: Some of its last episodes had such titles as “Stripper Sex Turned Me Straight,” “Stop Pimpin’ My Twin Sister,” and “Hooking Up With My Therapist.”

In a “Too Hot For TV” video released as his daily show neared 7 million viewers in the late 1990s, Springer offered a defense against disgust.

“Look, television does not and must not create values, it’s merely a picture of all that’s out there—the good, the bad, the ugly,” Springer said, adding: “Believe this: The politicians and companies that seek to control what each of us may watch are a far greater danger to America and our treasured freedom than any of our guests ever were or could be.”

He also contended that the people on his show volunteered to be subjected to whatever ridicule or humiliation awaited them.

Gerald Norman Springer was born Feb. 13, 1944, in a London underground railway station being used as a bomb shelter. His parents, Richard and Margot, were German Jews who fled to England during the Holocaust, in which other relatives were killed in Nazi gas chambers. They arrived in the United States when their son was 5 and settled in the Queens borough of New York City, where Springer got his first Yankees baseball gear on his way to becoming a lifelong fan.



Springer

He studied political science at Tulane University and got a law degree from Northwestern University. He was active in politics much of his adult life, mulling a run for governor of Ohio as recently as 2017.

He entered the arena as an aide in Robert F. Kennedy’s ill-fated 1968 presidential campaign. Springer, working for a Cincinnati law firm, ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1970 before being elected to city council in 1971.

In 1974—in what The Cincinnati Enquirer reported as “an abrupt move that shook Cincinnati’s political community”—Springer resigned. He cited “very personal family considerations,” but what he didn’t mention was a vice probe involving prostitution. In a subsequent admission that could have been the basis for one of his future shows, Springer said he had paid prostitutes with personal checks.

Then 30, he had married Micki Velton the previous year. The couple had a daughter, Katie, and divorced in 1994.

Springer quickly bounced back politically, winning a council seat in 1975 and serving as mayor in 1977. He later became a local television politics reporter with popular evening commentaries. He and co-anchor Norma Rashid eventually helped build NBC affiliate WLWT-TV’s broadcast into the Cincinnati market’s top-rated news show.

Springer began his talk

show in 1991 with more of a traditional format, but after he left WLWT in 1993, it got a sleazy makeover.

TV Guide ranked it No. 1 on a list of “Worst Shows in the History of Television,” but it was ratings gold. It made Springer a celebrity who would go on to host a liberal radio talk show and “America’s Got Talent,” star in a movie called “Ringmaster,” and compete on “Dancing With the Stars.”

“With all the joking I do with the show, I’m fully aware and thank God every day that my life has taken this incredible turn because of this silly show,” Springer told Cincinnati Enquirer media reporter John Kieseewetter in 2011.

Well in advance of Donald Trump’s political rise from reality TV stardom, Springer mulled a Senate run in 2003 that he surmised could draw on “nontraditional voters,” people “who believe most politics are bull.”

“I connect with a whole bunch of people who probably connect more to me right now than to a traditional politician,” Springer told the AP at the time. He opposed the war on Iraq and favored expanding public healthcare, but ultimately did not run.

Springer also spoke often of the country he came to age 5 as “a beacon of light for the rest of world.”

“I have no other motivation but to say I love this country,” Springer said to a Democratic gathering in 2003.

Springer hosted a nationally syndicated “Judge Jerry” show

in 2019 and continued to speak out on whatever was on his mind in a podcast, but his power

to shock had dimmed in the new era of reality television and combative cable TV talk shows.

### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### Teen accused in death of transgender woman from documentary

**ATLANTA** (AP)—A 17-year-old is in custody in connection with the shooting death earlier this month of Koko Da Doll, an Atlanta woman who gained notice in a documentary about transgender Black women and the dangers they face, police said Thursday. The teenager faces charges of murder and aggravated assault in the death of the 35-year-old transgender woman, also known as Rasheeda Williams. The teenager surrendered to officers at a precinct in northwest Atlanta on Wednesday, identifying himself as the person of interest being sought in the case, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

#### Ed Sheeran, on guitar, gets musical with a New York jury

**NEW YORK** (AP)—In a packed New York courtroom, Ed Sheeran picked up his guitar Thursday and launched into a tune that has him locked in a copyright dispute over Marvin Gaye’s soul classic “Let’s Get it On” as the only audience that mattered—a jury—looked on. Sheeran was an hour into testimony in Manhattan federal court when his lawyer,

Ilene Farkas, pressed him to tell how he came to write “Thinking Out Loud” a decade ago. He reached back, grabbed his guitar from a rack behind the witness stand and explained that writing a song was second nature to him. He said he used his own version of phonetics to create songs so quickly that he could write up to nine in a day. Even last weekend, Sheeran claimed, he wrote 10 songs. Then he sang just a few words of the pivotal tune, bringing smiles to the faces of some of the spectators in the courtroom of Judge Louis L. Stanton.

#### Jack Nicholson returns to courtside for Lakers’ playoff game

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Jack is back. Los Angeles Lakers superfan Jack Nicholson was watching at courtside for the first time in nearly two years Friday night when his team hosted the Memphis Grizzlies in Game 6 of their first-round playoff series. The 86-year-old Nicholson hadn’t been in his usual seats in the Lakers’ downtown arena since last season’s opening game in October 2021, but the three-time Academy Award-winning actor returned to his famed spot near the opposing bench with his son.

## Ex-girlfriend believes she wasn’t cheating

**DEAR ABBY:** My longtime girlfriend and I broke up recently. One of the reasons was because we didn’t agree on a definition of cheating. She met a friend through work whom I met once, and what I saw and heard during that interaction screamed he was a sleaze who wanted to move in on my girl. I voiced my concerns and asked her to stop seeing this friend, and she agreed.

A week later, she renewed the friendship, communicating through Snapchat. For six months she would have drinks with him, go places with him and have conversations with him without telling me. She swears they never did anything physical. I had seen the signs -- from time to time I’d notice she wasn’t where she said she would be, the car would smell like smoke, and we were growing apart.

One day, I finally had had enough and we agreed to separate. Since our first day apart, they have been together. I have told her she cheated on me and I couldn’t trust her. She insists she wasn’t cheating and I should have been more self-confident and trusting. When two people’s definition of cheating differs, what do you do? Who is right?

**WONDERING IN WYOMING**

**DEAR WONDERING:** YOU are right! Your former girlfriend was sneaking around seeing someone on the side

and lying about it. That behavior is the **DEFINITION of cheating. Stop arguing with her, and be glad that the relationship is over and you are free to find an honest woman to love. I hope the two of them wind up together because they deserve each other.**

◆◆◆◆

**DEAR ABBY:** My ex-husband died three years ago. We have three grown daughters. He wrote in his will that I was not to be at his funeral, which was hurtful, as we had been married for 30 years. My two older daughters felt it necessary to abide by his wishes. This happened during the pandemic, so not much was done except his burial. He didn’t remarry, but the woman he left me for was very much a part of all the planning.

My two older daughters are now planning a celebration of life for him. The problem is that they live out of state and they want to stay with me. I do not want to be involved in any of this “celebration” or even host them. Their relationship with their father during their growing-up years was turbulent because he was an angry person most of the time. Now he’s their hero, which I also find painful because I was always their “protector.”

Am I looking at this all wrong? What’s your advice in dealing with this situation?

**SURVIVOR IN THE WEST**

### DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR SURVIVOR:** You had a long, unhappy marriage and a difficult divorce that involved another woman. You can’t change the way your two older daughters feel about their “hero.” Tell your girls they’re welcome at your home any time they visit, BUT because there are so many unpleasant memories associated with this particular event, you prefer they bunk elsewhere this time.

◆◆◆◆

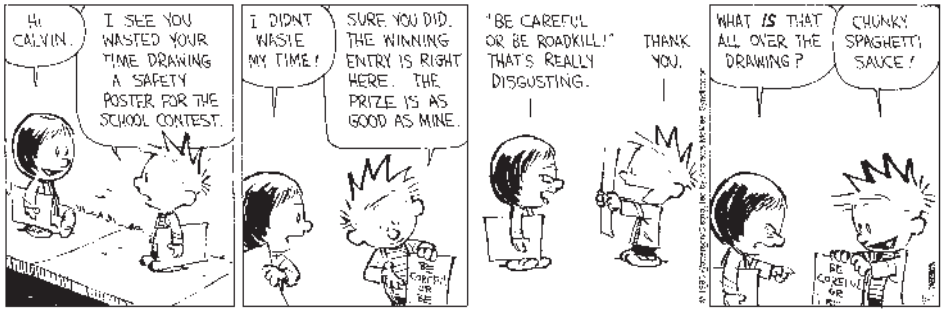
Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Ozone, for one; 4 Barber's tools; 9 Ecol. watchdog; 12 Tibetan beast; 13 Critic Roger; 14 Light (Lat.); 15 1620 vessel; 17 Soul, to Camus; 18 Football's Manning; 19 Reception aid; 21 Small roles; 24 Tae — do; 25 Khan title; 26 Messy room; 28 Bjorn Borg, for one; 31 Vincent van —; 33 Mermaid's home; 35 Urban haze; 36 Incite; 38 NBC sketch show; 40 Nabokov novel.

DOWN: 1 Workout site; 2 Motorist's org.; 3 Firmament; 4 Low-pitched instruments; 5 Woodwind; 6 Kitten's cry; 7 Take five; 8 Scatters; 9 "The Heart-break Kid" director; 10 Cougar; 11 Skater's leap; 16 Service charge; 20 Tiers; 21 Batting practice area; 22 Awe-struck; 23 Classic Rod Stewart hit song; 27 "You bet!"; 29 Nitwit; 30 Novelist Jennifer; 32 Cobra feature; 34 News show; 37 Nog sprinkling; 39 "House" star; 42 Italian wine; 44 Secret-protecting doc.; 45 Male turkeys; 46 Breakfast chain; 50 "—hawl" (rodeo cry); 51 Caustic solution; 52 Website contact no.; 53 Orange tuber.

Last Friday's Answer 05/01

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wes Anderson, 54; Tim McGraw, 56; Joanna Lumley, 77; Judy Collins, 84.

Happy Birthday: Take a step forward, believe in yourself and make your dreams come true. Turn this into a year to remember through your actions, vitality and enthusiasm. Stick to the truth and focus on the possibilities. Your strength comes from your wisdom and ability to strive for the best quality in all you pursue. Change begins within. Your numbers are 5, 13, 26, 34, 39, 41, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep busy and dismiss any anger or anxiety you feel. Refuse to let what others do influence your actions or pull you into something that is upsetting or a waste of valuable time. Make personal growth your preference and avoid criticism and arguments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Concentrate on what's important to you. Protect your health, wealth and emotional well-being. Put your time and effort into doing the best job possible. Adjust your routine to fit the lifestyle that makes you happy. Engage in whatever makes a difference to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a back seat and observe. The information you absorb will encourage you to pay attention to what's necessary to succeed. Rely on yourself to translate events to inspire and help you achieve, and you'll diminish the chance of outside interference.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Host an event or use your home base to branch out in a new direction that allows you to turn something you enjoy into a lucrative pastime.

Check in with people who offer good advice and are willing to contribute to your venture.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep everything moving, regardless of what's happening around you. Stay true to yourself and your plans, and you'll avoid controversy and setbacks. Put your energy into finishing what you start, even if it means working alone. Don't be misled by someone's negativity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your emotions out of the mix if you want to get things done on time. Protect your reputation by keeping your personal life to yourself. An emotional situation will escalate based on false information.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pay attention to your overall health and well-being. Don't let stress cause emotional turmoil when taking care of business will alleviate such trauma. Treat yourself with respect and demand the same from those you encounter. Romance is in the stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Know what's expected of you and deliver what you promise. Travel, educational pursuits and trying to make a difference will shape your day and lead to interesting encounters that will change the way you see and do things. A partnership looks promising.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep to yourself as you work toward your goals. Focus on deadlines and what's expected of you to avoid a run-in with someone who can cause you emotional grief. Be open to suggestions, but look for opportunities that excite you.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got plenty going your way, so don't waste time on people and situations that weigh you down instead of prop you up. Invest in yourself and improving what concerns you. Discipline and hard work will pay off and make a difference.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll have to carry the torch alone if you want to get things done on time. Refuse to let anyone throw you off course. Focus on self-improvement and saving for something that can improve your quality of life. Avoid people with ulterior motives.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Establish what you want and make changes that will help you reach your destination. Problems at home or with relationships will mount if honesty doesn't prevail. Put your energy where it counts and make sure your heart is in the right place.

Birthday Baby: You are talkative, engaging and demonstrative. You are intense and particular.

3: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. 66: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 666: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 6666: Aim high; start new projects. 66666: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	8			5							
	2	7	9	3	8				4		
3		5	4	2			7				
2				5				9			
8	3	4				2			7	5	
					6	3	4				
6	5	2	3	4						7	
	4			8	1	6					9
9		8		7							

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

4	8	1	9	5	3	2	6	7
7	3	2	8	6	1	4	5	9
9	6	5	7	2	4	8	3	1
8	2	7	6	1	9	5	4	3
1	5	4	3	8	2	9	7	6
3	9	6	4	7	5	1	2	8
2	1	3	5	9	7	6	8	4
5	4	8	1	3	6	7	9	2
6	7	9	2	4	8	3	1	5

Difficulty: ★ 5/1 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS WIN SUPER BOWL LVII Sol.: 6 letters

T	P	M	F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	R	A	T	S
E	C	A	O	G	U	J	U	J	D	E	E	N	S	N
R	N	H	T	O	A	R	T	O	I	H	E	P	W	W
I	E	O	A	R	R	M	K	D	A	C	A	O	N	O
A	L	M	N	M	I	E	E	R	L	G	R	T	O	D
L	P	E	O	N	P	C	R	E	N	B	K	N	T	H
E	P	S	C	Y	I	K	O	E	U	P	A	T	R	U
H	A	S	E	A	S	I	K	O	E	O	P	A	H	U
S	N	N	H	G	H	L	C	N	O	T	L	O	B	O
D	O	N	C	E	O	H	E	M	S	H	C	E	E	T
R	Z	A	A	I	E	Y	A	L	P	Y	A	V	L	R
A	I	H	P	L	E	D	A	L	I	H	P	I	L	A
W	R	I	E	L	O	M	B	A	R	D	I	L	S	V
D	A	R	B	I	E	N	I	E	M	Y	D	N	A	I
E	N	O	S	W	A	D	N	E	S	N	W	O	T	S

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.mcmeel.com 5/1 Andy, Apple, Arizona, Bell, Blenheim, Bolton, Brown, Buechele, Burton, Butler, Champions, Clark, Dawson, Edwards-Helaire, Football, Game, Harris, Hunt, Isaiah, JuJu, Kelce, Live, Lombardi, Mahomes, McKinnon, Moore, Pacheco, Patrick, Philadelphia, Play, Reid, Rihanna, Sneed, Spagnuolo, Star, Toney, Touchdowns, Townsend, Travis, Willie Gay Last Friday's Answer: Mickey Mouse The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Murray scores 34, Nuggets beat Suns 125-107 in Game 1



**DENVER (AP)—** Jamal Murray kept imploring the crowd to get louder and louder with each trip down the floor.

As if the Nuggets point guard even needed to. His play was already rocking the arena.

Murray scored 34 points, hitting six of Denver's 16 3-pointers, and the Nuggets sprinted past the Phoenix Suns 125-107 on Saturday night in Game 1 of their second-round series.

"He's a bad man," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said.

Any response to that adulation?

"Thanks?" Murray said. "Appreciate it. ... I'm just playing my game. ... I'm doing whatever it takes to win."

And maybe show a nation that doesn't always get to watch the Nuggets—you know, because they're usually on so late—what the players have known all season: They're talented and worthy of their top seed in the Western Conference. They don't mind if the Suns, as the fourth seed, are the trendy pick to beat them, either.

"We're going to keep doing what we're doing, keep proving everybody wrong," Murray said.

Reigning back-to-back NBA MVP Nikola Jokic had 24 points and 19 rebounds, while Aaron Gordon finished with 23 points. But this was the Murray Show, where he went 6 of 10 from 3-point land and frequently exhorted for more noise from the already raucous crowd.

"Let's be honest, some of the shots he hit tonight I don't think anybody could have stopped



Denver Nuggets guard Jamal Murray reacts after hitting a basket against the Phoenix Suns in the second half of Game 1 of an NBA second-round basketball series Saturday, April 29, 2023, in Denver.

him," Suns coach Monty Williams said.

Kevin Durant scored 29 points and grabbed 14 boards for the Suns, with Devin Booker adding 27 points and Chris Paul 11. Booker averaged 37.2 points in a first-round series win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

"I thought that they were just more physical, played with more force," Williams said. "We've got to regroup and do a much better job of playing with pace on offense."

Game 2 is Monday night in Denver.

This is a different sort of play-off series than two years ago, when the Suns swept the Nuggets in the second round. Back then, Denver was without Murray after he tore his ACL.

Now healthy, Murray is

flashing his 2020 form inside the NBA bubble that helped Denver advance to the Western Conference finals.

"Jamal just continues to add to the legend of playoff Ja-

mal," Malone said.

Murray had the play of the night when he stole a pass, split defenders Paul and Durant at top speed and knocked in a layup high off the glass. It brought

the capacity crowd to its feet.

The dynamic point guard was far from done energizing the fans, hitting a 3-pointer with just under 7 minutes remaining. He implored them

## Jimmy Butler does things his way, leads Heat into 2nd round

**MIAMI (AP)—**Jimmy Butler is different.

Some players hit beaches over All-Star break; Butler went to Argentina to watch tennis and learn about coffee. Some players rest with one day off between games; Butler spent 10 hours flying round-trip to be at Pau Gasol's Los Angeles Lakers jersey retirement one night and back in Miami for shootaround the next morning. Some Miami teammates jumped around the locker room to celebrate after eliminating top-seeded Milwaukee; Butler simply watched while sipping a drink.

He does things his way, which is not a bad thing—and the results prove it. Butler has led Miami to the Eastern Conference semifinals for the third time in his four seasons with the Heat; this year, a matchup with the New York Knicks awaits, starting Sunday.

"He puts his soul into competing," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "When you put that much physical, mental, emotional and spiritual energy into that will to win, that is so unique. You have to be able to recharge your batteries to gear up and do that over and over and over again. If you don't, you'll burn out. And I think him being able to get away and clear his headspace has been one of the most productive things for him."

A championship is what lured Butler to Miami, and it's all that matters to him now. A revival of the Heat-Knicks playoff rivalry that was born a generation ago? He doesn't care. The outside

world's opinions or predictions? He immediately dismisses them. Facing his former coach Tom Thibodeau in this series? He thinks that's irrelevant.

"I know what he's about. He knows what we're about," Thibodeau, the Knicks coach who had Butler on his teams in Chicago and Minnesota, said Friday. "So, let's go."

It doesn't take long to figure out what Butler is about. He plays hard, demands others do the same and makes it worthwhile.

"Jimmy's just a talented player," guard Kyle Lowry said. "I think Jimmy goes out there and, every assignment that the other team gives him, he tries to take that personally. ... I'm rolling with Jimmy at all times."

Added center Bam Adebayo: "I'm just thankful that he's on my team."

It would be inaccurate to say that the regular season doesn't matter to Butler. It would not be inaccurate to say that the postseason matters more. Case in point: He has scored at least 40 points in a game eight times since joining the Heat—and all eight of those performances came in the playoffs, including two in the series against Milwaukee, the first a 56-point masterpiece in Game 4 and the other a 42-point effort in the clinching Game 5.

Social media lit up when Butler was putting on his show in Game 5.

■ "Let's stop faking on 22. Bro really like dat!" injured Heat guard Victor Oladipo

wrote, referring to Butler by his jersey number.

■ "Somebody said Jimmy Butler averaged my age!" wrote Golden State's Andre Iguodala, a former teammate in Miami. (Almost true; Iguodala is 39.)

■ "Himmy Butler lol," wrote Portland's Damian Lillard.

■ Butler doesn't like the notion that he becomes "Playoff Jimmy," but it's tough to argue otherwise. He averaged 22.9 points per game in the regular season—and averaged 37.6 points in Round 1 against the Bucks, the highest average of anyone so far in these playoffs.

"My teammates keep telling me to shoot the ball, shoot the ball more, attack," Butler said. "That's just what it was. No matter what, if I'm scoring, if I'm passing, defending, rebounding, whatever it may be, we've just got to win at all costs."

Win at all costs. That's his mantra off the court as well.

The world sees the highlights of Butler pointing at a scoreboard and telling Milwaukee's Jrue Holiday what he's doing to him—that happened in Game 5 of Round 1—but the world doesn't see the highlights of Butler tormenting his close-knit inner circle. If they get on the basketball court with him, that obviously doesn't work out well for them. When they play dominoes or card games, good luck. He famously wouldn't even give teammates a discount when he was selling \$20-a-cup coffee at the NBA's restart bubble in 2020.

for more noise, even holding a hand to his ear.

Leading 106-95 with 7:40 remaining, the Nuggets went on a 14-0 run to put away the game. Denver led by as much as 25 and improved to 38-7 at home through the regular season and playoffs.

Durant cut off a question about whether he was surprised by the Nuggets.

Because he's not.

"They're the No. 1 seed for a reason. They got a two-time MVP. They've got a deep team. I'm not surprised," Durant said. "We've got our work cut out for us."

The difference was the 3-point line, where the Nuggets outscored the Suns by a 48-21 margin. That and turnovers, where the Suns had 16, including seven by Durant.

"I've got to be way more careful with the ball," Durant said. "I've to look to either shoot the ball or make the correct pass. ... I dang got near half our turnovers. We'll be fine. I think we've just got to play with confidence, shoot with confidence and see what happens next game."

"I've got an incredible group that keeps me level-headed, that make my life not always just about basketball," Butler said. "And I've got an amazing family, too."

It's all just Jimmy being Jimmy. He fits perfectly within the Heat organization, and Spoelstra figured that out right away.

"He is us and we are him," Spoelstra said. "I just respect him so much for being such a unique, world-class, elite competitor. A lot of guys play the game of basketball in this league. He competes to win. That's a different language. He's desperate and urgent and maniacal and sometimes psychotic about the will to try to win and he'll make everybody in the building feel it."

Even when the Heat struggled this season, Butler never publicly changed his tune much. He kept insisting the same thing—that Miami has enough talent to win, that the Heat would figure out what they were supposed to do in time to compete for a title.

They were overwhelming underdogs in Round 1 and became the first No. 8 seed to advance by losing only one game against the top seed. Now comes Round 2, and the Knicks, and a chance to get back to the East finals for the third time in his Miami tenure.

"We're a good group of basketball players and we're having fun whenever we're out there," Butler said. "We're playing basketball the right way and good things happen if you do that."

## Injured Embiid 'doubtful' for Game 1, says 76ers coach

**CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—**Philadelphia 76ers coach Doc Rivers says NBA MVP finalist Joel Embiid is doubtful for Game 1 of the play-off series against the Boston Celtics with a sprained right knee.

Embiid was examined by doctors this week and has yet to practice ahead of Monday's Eastern Conference semifinals opener at Boston.

The Sixers have had the longest break of any NBA team after they swept the Brooklyn Nets last Saturday. Embiid was hurt in Game 3 and missed the next game.

"If I was a betting man, I would probably say doubtful for at least Game 1, but we'll see," Rivers said Saturday at the 76ers' facility in New Jersey. "He has to get better.

He did nothing (today). Just wasn't able to and obviously we were hopeful for today."

The 29-year-old Embiid, from Cameroon, averaged 33.1 points this season to win his second straight scoring title. He also averaged 10.2 rebounds and tied a career high with 4.2 assists per game. He played in 66 games, the second-highest total of his career.

Embiid missed two games in the second round last year and another in the first round in 2021 with various injuries, on top of the two he missed to begin the 2018 playoffs with an orbital fracture and another in 2019, also with a knee problem.

Embiid averaged 36.8 points and 11.8 rebounds in four games this season against the Celtics.



# Machado, Padres beat Giants 16-11 in Mexico City



**MEXICO CITY** (AP) —

Machado put San Diego ahead in the seventh inning with his second homer of the night, and the San Diego Padres outslugged the San Francisco Giants 16-11 on Saturday in Major League Baseball's first game in Mexico City.

Nelson Cruz, Juan Soto, Fernando Tatis and Xander Bogaerts also went deep for the Padres, who outthrew the Giants 6-5 and outhit them 17-13 in the thin air of Estadio Alfredo Harp Helú, which opened in 2019. At 7,349 feet above sea level, this two-game series is the highest elevation for big league games. MLB's previous regular-season trips to Mexico were for games in Monterrey.

San Francisco's Brandon Crawford, Lamonte Wade Jr. and Mitch Haniger homered off Joe Musgrove. Blake Sabol hit a two-run homer in the seventh against Steven Wilson that tied the score 10-10, and David Villar homered five pitches later.

Tom Cogrove (1-0), a 26-year-old left-hander who played at Manhattan College, won in his major league debut for the Padres. Tyler Rogers (0-1) got the loss.

**BREWERS 7, ANGELS 5 MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Corbin Burnes pitched six sparkling innings, and Milwaukee earned its third straight win.

Burnes (3-1) allowed one run and five hits. Devin Williams got one out for his fifth save.

Milwaukee shortstop Willy Adames and manager Craig Counsell were ejected in the sixth.

Adames asked for a time-out from plate umpire Adam Beck, who refused to grant the request and called a strike. Adames had gotten two previous allowances. Counsell came out to argue and got tossed.

Adames struck out swinging on the next pitch, had words with Beck and was ejected. He had to be restrained by his teammates.

Mike Trout homered twice and drove in five runs for Los Angeles. Shohei Ohtani finished with three hits. Reid Detmers (0-2) got the loss.

## **DODGERS 1, CARDINALS 0**

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw continued his dominant start to the season with seven sharp innings.

Kershaw didn't allow a baserunner until Dylan Carlson's one-out single in the

fifth. The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner gave up two hits, struck out nine and walked none, throwing 88 pitches.

Back for his 16th season on a one-year deal, the 35-year-old Kershaw (5-1) won his fourth consecutive start.

Austin Barnes hit an RBI single in the second inning for Los Angeles, which will try for its first three-game series sweep Sunday. Brusdar Graterol pitched the ninth to earn his second save.

Cardinals left-hander Jordan Montgomery (2-4) allowed five hits over 6 2/3 innings but lost his fourth consecutive decision.

## **RAYS 12, WHITE SOX 3**

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Wander Franco hit a leadoff homer in the seventh for Tampa Bay's first hit off Lance Lynn, sparking a 10-run inning for the Rays.

Randy Arozarena added two homers, one in the seventh and another in the ninth, for Tampa Bay, which improved to a major league-best 23-5. Yonny Chirinos (1-0) allowed a run in 4 2/3 innings.

The White Sox have lost 10 straight to match their longest skid since 2013. They fell to 0-6 against the Rays this season.

Lynn (0-4) struck out 10 in 6 1/3 innings. He was charged with four runs and three hits.

Elvis Andrus hit a two-run single in the second for Chicago. Eloy Jiménez added an RBI double in the sixth.

## **PIRATES 6, NATIONALS 3, GAME 1 PIRATES 16, NATIONALS 1, GAME 2**

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Drew Maggi got his first two major league hits, three days after making his big league debut with the Pittsburgh following 13 years in the minor leagues, and the Pirates completed a day-night doubleheader sweep.

The 34-year-old Maggi lined a 2-2 splitter from Hobie Harris into center field for an RBI single as a pinch hitter in the seventh inning, boosting the Pirates' lead to 13-0 in the second game. Maggi stayed in the game at third base and added a ninth-inning double off Lane Thomas, an outfielder.

Miguel Andujar homered in his season debut in the opener, and then hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning of the second game. Rich Hill (3-2) got the win in the first game, and Vince Velasquez (4-2) pitched six scoreless innings in the nightcap.

The Pirates have won four straight and 11 of 12. They are 20-8 for the time since 1992,



San Diego Padres' Manny Machado celebrates a two-run home run against the San Francisco Giants during the seventh inning of a baseball game at Alfredo Harp Helu Stadium in Mexico City, Saturday, April 29, 2023.

when they won their last division title.

Dominic Smith homered in the second game for Washington, which is last in the NL East at 9-17, including an NL-worst 2-11 at home. Patrick Corbin (1-4) allowed three runs in 5 1/3 innings in the first game, and Chad Kuhl (0-2) got the loss in the nightcap.

## **DIAMONDBACKS 11, ROCKIES 4**

**DENVER** (AP)—Geraldo Perdomo and Christian Walker homered, and the Diamondbacks handed the Rockies their seventh consecutive home loss.

Perdomo had three hits and four RBIs. Walker had three hits and drove in two runs.

Arizona rookie Corbin Carroll hit an RBI single in the first to extend his career-best hitting streak to eight games, but he departed in the bottom of the sixth with a left knee contusion. He hit the left-field wall and fell awkwardly while trying to catch Ryan McMahon's RBI double. He walked off the field gingerly under his own power.

Arizona's Tommy Henry (1-0) went 5 1/3 innings and allowed four runs and seven hits.

The Diamondbacks sent 10 men to the plate in their six-run second against rookie Noah Davis (0-1).

## **RANGERS 2, YANKEES 0**

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Nathan Eovaldi pitched a three-hitter for his first big league nine-inning shutout, and the Rangers beat the listless Yankees for New York's fifth loss in seven games.

Ezequiel Duran hit a two-run homer for Texas in the fifth.

Yankees captain Aaron Judge missed his second straight game with a mild hip

strain, joining Giancarlo Stanton, Josh Donaldson and Harrison Bader on the sideline. New York was shut out for the first time this season and has scored two runs or fewer in five of its last seven games.

## **PHILLIES 6, ASTROS 1**

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Zack Wheeler threw six shutout innings and Kody Clemens hit a two-run homer, leading Philadelphia to its fourth straight win.

Wheeler (3-1) allowed three hits, struck out seven and walked one in his third straight victory.

Nick Castellanos also connected for Philadelphia, and J.T. Realmuto had a sacrifice fly. Jake Cave had three hits, including an RBI single in the eighth.

Jeremy Peña homered for the Astros in the eighth. Cristian Javier (2-1) yielded three runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings.

## **REDS 3, ATHLETICS 2**

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Jeurys Familia gave up a one-run lead in the ninth, Cincinnati's Jake Fraley hit a broken-bat double and the Oakland Athletics set a major-league record of 28 games to begin a season without a win by the starting pitcher in a loss to the Reds.

A's starter Kyle Muller tossed five innings and was in line to finally break the notorious streak. But Familia (0-1) walked Henry Ramos, surrendered Kevin Newman's single, then walked Nick Senzel. Fraley delivered one out later.

Cincinnati's Casey Legumina (1-0) pitched the eighth for the win and Alexis Díaz got his fourth save. Luke Maile homered leading off the third for the Reds, who have won five straight.

## **RED SOX 8, GUARDIANS 7, 10 INNINGS**

**BOSTON** (AP)—Alex Verdugo drove in the winning run to cap a two-run 10th inning for Boston, which rallied for a win over Cleveland despite blowing the lead an inning earlier.

Rafael Devers had a long first-inning, three-run homer. Brennan Bernardino (1-0) earned his first major-league victory.

The Guardians notched four runs in the seventh and tied it on José Ramírez's RBI single off closer Kenley Jansen in the ninth—it was Jansen's first blown save and first run allowed of the season.

## **BLUE JAYS 1, MARINERS 0, 10 INNINGS**

**TORONTO** (AP)—Daulton Varsho singled with the bases loaded in the 10th and Toronto beat Seattle for its sixth straight victory after Mariners pitcher Easton McGee took a no-hitter into the seventh inning of his first major league start.

Matt Chapman doubled off the center-field wall with two outs in the seventh for the only hit against McGee, who was called up from the minors before the game.

Blue Jays starter Kevin Gausman matched the impressive rookie with a career-high 13 strikeouts in seven shutout innings.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. singled off Trevor Gott (0-2) to begin the bottom of the 10th, advancing automatic runner Bo Bichette to third. Seattle intentionally walked Chapman to load the bases for Varsho, who broke an 0-for-18 slump by lining the first pitch over Teoscar Hernández in right field.

## **ROYALS 3, TWINS 2**

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Jhoan Duran's wild pitch allowed Edward Olivares to score the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning, and Kansas City ended a nine-game losing streak at Target Field.

Olivares doubled twice and walked on four pitches from Duran (0-1) leading off the ninth. Oliveras stole second, and Michael Massey walked for the first time in 81 plate appearances this season when Duran committed a pitch-clock violation with a full count.

Nicky Lopez sacrificed and Olivares bounced a 1-0 curveball off the mitt of catcher Ryan Jeffers, the ball bouncing to the warning track in front of the first-base dugout.

Kansas City won for just the third time in 15 games. Scott Barlow hung on for his fourth save.

## **MARLINS 7, CUBS 6**

**MIAMI** (AP)—Jesús Sánchez hit a two-run double in the Marlins' five-run first inning, and the team held on for a 7-6 win over Chicago.

Sánchez also singled home Luis Arraez in the fourth. Arraez and Jazz Chisholm Jr. each had three hits. Marlins right-hander Edward Cabrera (2-2) struck out a career-high 12 in five innings. He was charged with two runs and three hits.

Patrick Wisdom and Cody Bellinger homered for Chicago, while Trey Mancini had two hits and scored two runs. Caleb Kilian (0-1) struggled in his fourth career start for the Cubs. The right-hander was promoted from Triple-A Iowa before the game and tagged for seven runs and 10 hits in 3 1/3 innings.

## **TIGERS 7, ORIOLES 4, GAME 1 ORIOLES 6, TIGERS 4, GAME 2**

**DETROIT** (AP)—Grayson Rodriguez struck out nine in five shutout innings in his first major league win, and the Orioles earned a split in their doubleheader against the Tigers.

Ryan McKenna homered and drove in three runs for the Orioles, who have won 10 of their last 12 games. Detroit fell to 2-13 against AL East opponents.

Matt Vierling had three hits and four RBIs for the Tigers in the opener. Zack Short homered and Eduardo Rodríguez (2-2) pitched effectively into the sixth inning.

Baltimore took control of the nightcap by scoring four second-inning runs off Matthew Boyd (1-2) on five singles and a wild pitch.



# Trench Tech Gym brings home 5 medals from Guam



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Tech Gym instructor Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, top row second from left, poses with 13 of the jiu jitsu practitioners that flew to Guam for the Patgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament.

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Trench Tech Gym had a successful stint in the recent

Patgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament in Guam after taking home six medals—three silvers and three bronzes.

Jacqueline Iris Quitugua, Trey Manglona, and Gabe

Mitchell bagged the silver medals, while the bronze medals were won by Mitchell, Justo Quitugua, and Jordan Camacho.

Seven-year-old Jacqueline Iris Quitugua won second place as a grey belt in the junior 1 division of the heavyweight class, while 11-year-old Manglona was runner-up in the junior 2 as a white belt middle heavyweight.

Mitchell finished second as a white belt in the No Gi teen-

juvenile category and third in the Gi division after the 13-year-old was bumped up from the teen 2.

Eleven-year-old Justo Quitugua took the bronze in the ultra heavyweight junior 2 category, while 7-year-old Camacho was third in the pee wee 2 super heavyweight as a white belt.

The rest of the Trench Tech Gym team that went to Guam were Alexander Diaz (junior division), Kaiya Pangelinan

(junior 1 division), Raymond Earl Hazlett (junior 2), Reiden Travilla (junior 1), Tate Manglona (junior 2), Hani Reyes (pee wee 2), Brian Reyes (junior 2), and Chris Hardt (juvenile).

Trench Tech Gym instructor Justis "Cuki" Alvarez said all 13 of their jiu jitsu practitioners except Hardt saw action in Guam, adding that the latter didn't compete because he had no opponent.

Alvarez said the six-medal



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Tech Gym instructor Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, left, poses with Gabe Mitchell who won two medals—a silver in the No Gi teen-juvenile category and a bronze in the Gi division—in the Patgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament in Guam.

haul in the recent Patgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament in Guam was a nice surprise considering the stiff competition they faced.

"We always have goals of winning medals, however, because the competition was so strong, realistically, we knew we wouldn't medal in all our divisions. But five kids medaling is a plus in our books and we are proud of their accomplishments. But to us, they are all winners for competing."

He added Trench Tech Gym is proud of the baker's dozen's performance in Guam, including Hardt, who all trained to get in competition form.

"They did great. The competition was fierce and all our kids were as prepared as they could have been, but there is

always room for improvement. So we need to work on a lot of things for the next tournament because all the competitors from Guam who our kids competed against were good and well trained!"

Alvarez then thanked all the sponsors that made their trip to the Patgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament possible, namely former governor Ralph DLG Torres for his huge contribution that paid all their flights, Bridge Capital LLC for providing rooms at the Perlas Courte Condos, and Saipan Mayor's Office and Hardt Eye Clinic for their monetary donations.

Other corporate sponsors include Tang's Corp., the Officer of Senate President Celine R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Ete Cafe, and FÖKAI Guam.

## DOLPHINS

From Page 20

team captain Jerome Manzón led the Dolphins to a big lead early on.

The Torchbearers tried to dominate at the net with blocks and spikes of their own, but the Dolphins held on to the upper hand and controlled the game with their overpowering serves and returns. In the end, the game ended on a 21-10 second set after the Torchbearers failed to return the last point on account of not getting the ball over the net after four hits.

The Dolphins' lineup consisted of Mokyang Joseph Kim, Jerome Manzón, Dylan Salalila, Lowell Lumauag, Nehemiah Coleman, Juruel Magtala, seniors Reiki Tababa, Dylan Mister, William Arriola and John Justo, while the Torchbearers were Caleb Cui, Bill Li, Allen Luo, Michael Ma, Peter Peng, Hudson Tan, Jacob Wang, Stanley Zhang, David Zhao, and Aaron Zheng.

MHS head coach Don Marshall Cabrera said "I'm very proud of them [they] exceeded expectations. I know they've been playing volleyball all year long and they've been working hard for it."

As for ACS, he said that he knew from the beginning that they would reach the finals. "The toughest part about playing ACS is their defense. They're really really strong on the net and have really good coverage... So they're a very worthwhile opponent. I'm just happy we came away with the win."

Team captain Jerome Manzón said the season was great. "By far, I would say this is the strongest batch we have. And us playing like this—no loss, undefeated, and perfect season gives us so much more confidence to play next year. We made it here, we're here to stay, and we're creating a dynasty."

Manzón said in the championship game, they used each player, stayed consistent, and stayed positive throughout. For next season, although four players are graduating, he said "I feel that this season, we've created a great foundation for our players, so we won't really have that many problems coming into next season."

Earlier in the morning, MHS defeated Saipan International School, 21-17, 21-15, to advance to the finals, while ACS defeated Grace Christian Academy, 21-13, 21-14, and then defeated SIS 21-18, 21-13 to face off with MHS.

## BABY

From Page 20

Vicente Elementary School had 2 points.

The strongest performance for SIS was in the 12U girls 1,500m as they swept first through third place. In a close race, Leilani Ruszala came in first with a time of 6:50.05; Isla Grant was second at 6:50.30; and Windsor Gross was third with 7:00.01.

They also had a great run in the 12U girls 800m as they took first and third place.

Ruszala was first again with a time of 3:18.59; Gross took third with 3:19.54; and second was GES' Seraya Kaniki with 3:19.26.

The Baby Geckos came in first and third as well in the 9U girls 200m race. Scarlett Burrell came in first with 33.40; Neveah Arriola was third with 34.85; and second was BSS' Lovel Spaeth with 34.59.

In the girls 4x400m relay, SIS came out on top again with a time of 5:53.96; second was TES at 6:20.16; and third was BSS with 6:21.48.

Kathy Ruszala, SIS athlet-

ics coach of about 10 years, said after the championship on Saturday that "the season was fantastic."

"Our kids really pushed themselves hardest today. The entire season, they [came] into practices and showed up and just really [gave] us their best," she said about the team.

About the tournament, she said "it went really smoothly, they started on time. The organizing and the volunteers came together so well. So thank you to all the organizers and volunteers. I know

it's like long nights and long days and hot days in the sun, but they really put it together for the kids. So that's the best part of doing this—it's for the children!"

The SIS girls team consists of two in the 9U and five in the 12U division. Ruszala said that her daughter, Leilani, is promoted to middle school, along with Adalee West, but that next season, they will still have a really good team.

The boys championship results will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

## BLUE

From Page 20

made by Alden Ngeskebei in the first inning but the Blue Jays were effectively shut down back-to-back.

In their at-bats, the D-9ers had the early upper hand as they took advantage of the Blue Jays' scoreless innings, bringing in their seven runs in four innings.

The fourth inning was a hitting frenzy as they went through their whole lineup and produced four runs off the bats of Dave Walwebug, Patrick Celis, T. Leon Guerrero, and John Benavente.

However, the Blue Jays' time to shine came in the last three innings as their bats came alive in the fourth inning and brought in five runs for a 7-5 game. The D-9ers pitching fell apart as consecutive base on balls put runners in scoring position which the Blue Jays capitalized on.

Two more runs came in

the sixth inning by Kier Agda and Mike Tomokane for a now tied 7-7 ball game. The winning run for the Blue Jays came in the last inning as James Salalila rounded the bases for an 8-7 final.

The Jr. Nationals and Falcons game was a pitching duel as the former shut down the latter in six innings. The Jr. Nationals scored their runs in the first and third inning and were silenced in the five other innings.

The combined efforts of Falcons pitchers Clint Quitugua and R.J. Rengiil struck out a total of nine batters; while the Jr. Nationals pitchers induced more ground balls and K'd five batters.

In the standings, the Cardinals and Natives are undefeated with four wins each; Falcons are third with a 3-1 record; the C.K. Bears are 2-1; the Blue Jays and Jr. Nationals are 2-2 each; Bandits and Survivors are 1-2 each; and the Braves, Brewers, and D9ers have yet to win with three losses each.





Murray scores 34,  
Nuggets beat Suns  
125-107 in Game 1.

PAGE 17

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Trench Tech Gym  
brings home  
5 medals  
from Guam.

PAGE 19



20 MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The speedy elementary school girls of Saipan International School dominated the girls division of the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 championships last Friday night and Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.



The Baby Geckos put on a show as they tore through the track on both days and accumulated the most points throughout the season qualifiers and the champion-

ship rounds for a total of 121 points.

Second place was Oleai Elementary School with 90 points; Tinian Elementary School and Garapan School were tied at third with 72 points; Koblerville Elementary School garnered 54 points; Brilliant Star School had 40 points; Sinapalo Elementary School had 20; Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and William S. Reyes both had 20 points; Kagman Elementary School had 12; Agape Christian School had 3; and San

See BABY on Page 19

## Baby Geckos win girls athletics champs



Saipan International School elementary school girls took home first place overall in the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 championships last Friday night and Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

LEIGH GASES

# Dolphins repeat as v-ball champs



LEIGH GASES

The Marianas High School Dolphins boys varsity volleyball team repeated as the champions after beating Agape Christian School in the finals of the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.



LEIGH GASES

Agape Christian School's Allen Luo, left, attempts a spike as Marianas High School's team captain Jerome Manzón, right, and Mokyang Kim defends with a jump block over the net in the second set of their championship game in the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas High School Dolphins successfully defended their title in the championship game of the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2022-2023.



In the last game of a steaming hot Saturday, the MHS Gymnasium was full of Dolphins and Agape Christian School Torchbearers supporters.

The first set started off with a bang, with both teams playing at their best. The ball flew back and forth over the net, as each team tried to gain an advantage. But the Dol-

phins showed why they were undefeated coming out of the regular season with some incredible spikes and saves.

While the Torchbearers put up a good fight, the Dolphins skated away with a 21-16 first set.

In the second set, the Torchbearers were scrambling for a comeback. They fought hard but the Dolphins were just too strong. Multiple aces by

See DOLPHINS on Page 19

## Blue Jays, Jr. Nationals hold onto W in SBL



The Blue Jays and Jr. Nationals have nicked wins in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last Thursday and Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Blue Jays came out of a recent loss but this time rallied against the D9ers to win a close 8-7 game on Thursday, while the Jr. Nationals slipped past the Falcons, 2-1 on Friday.

D-9ers pitcher Giovanni Ayuyu pitched three shut-out innings as the Blue Jays could not make contact with his pitches. Only one hit was

See BLUE on Page 19

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Jr. National's Kazu Dela Cruz slides home just barely safe in their game against the Blue Jays in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.